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Near East & South Asia

27 OCTOBER 1987

NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

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EP RESOLUTION ON ARMENIAN 'GENOCIDE' DISCUSSED

46050026. Beirut ARARAT in Armenian 5 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The European Parliament has confirmed the already indisputable fact of the Armenian genocide.

This event constitutes a significant success for our people in their long and painful struggle for revindication. It is a victorious battle in the protracted war in which our people oppose their mortal enemy that massacred them, deprived them of their homeland and that wishes to destroy even the last remaining Armenian. This advance on the path of solving the Armenian cause was achieved by our combined struggle. Every one of our parties, every social strata, every Armenian has had a share in achieving this success. It is the fruit of a national struggle, of effort, energy and hard work. The victory belongs to all, and every Armenian has a rightful share in it.

The foreign friends and supporters of the Armenian cause have had a noteworthy share in participating and contributing to winning this battle. They are our natural allies, those socialist, communist and democrat members of the European Parliament. Their stand in favor of our cause is neither fortuitous nor a whim, but the result of unswerving and ideological conviction. The picture is instructive and enlightening. It shows, in striking and convincing clarity, how the Armenian cause has been politicized on the international level, almost without Armenian action. Foreign political factors, social forces and classes have taken a position for or against our cause. It has also become crystal clear what attitudes have been adopted in our favor by whom, as well as why some defend those who plunder and commit genocide. It is thus important for the Armenian fighting for his just rights to become more prudent and more realistic, to be able to distinguish between his friends and his foes, and not to attach hopes where none is warranted. He should not be carried away by illusions, but hold fast to his supports and perform his duty based on the principle of a shared destiny and reciprocity. It is true that in principle we are ready to shake in grateful acknowledgment any hand that strengthens our cause and helps bring about its just resolution, but logic and the facts have convinced us that the true, reliable friends as well as the active allies of the Armenian cause may also be the people who share our lot and who are ideologically friendly and freedom-loving forces.

The result of the vote at Strasburg is an undeniable and invigorating victory. But we should not forget that this is only the start of the struggle and that

final victory is still far off. The coming battle will be more violent and more exhausting. Can we forget how bitter has been the fight for votes? The vote in favor of the Armenians was approved and received the force of law by barely a dozen favorable voices. The votes cast against it were substantial, as well the number of abstentions.

These facts show that the Turkish state spared no effort and was very active right up to the last minute. It used all possible means to convince, to predispose, to pressure or entice each state and deputy to take its side. So what we have accomplished has been literally snatched from the enemy's claws, a fact to which our foe can never reconcile itself, a fact it can never digest. And who among us is so simple-minded to think that it is all over, that the Grey Wolf, beaten and desperate, is at present hiding in a corner of its lair, lamenting its dismal and forlorn destiny, having abandoned all thought or effort of revival?

We have no doubt, and no Armenian should hold illusions about this, that at this very moment the Turkish state is plotting its vengeance, and like a wounded beast has redoubled its savagery and has fanned its traditional hatred of the Armenians and its vengeful instincts. Let us not underrate the enemy. Turkey disposes of powerful means, and what it lacks is made up for by the state that surround it, that court and flatter it. It is planning a counterattack that may reach us at any moment, not only in terms of votes but by slanderous statements by Ozal or by spiteful threats hurled at us by Evren.

Therefore, we should not permit ourselves to cry victory, to become intoxicated by our success or indulge in vain self-praise. What has been achieved is good, but it is not everything nor is it final and that vulnerable and fragile success can be wrenched from our grasp very quickly if we do not immediately adopt the means to consolidate it and make it invulnerable. History is filled with lessons that can awaken us and serve as a guide to us as well as to those who want to profit from them, if not to those who stubbornly refuse to budge from and correct decisions once taken. It was not unknown that a 16th article could be turned into a 61st article by the imperceptible movement of a magic wand during the Berlin conference. And Strasburg is not far from Berlin.

If such are the situation and needs of the moment, it is appropriate to ask what each of us is doing as individuals, or, more importantly, what we are doing collectively.

The watchword is to consolidate the victory won, to prepare to counter the vindictive assault of the adversary, to add to what we already have in hand, and then to take one more successful step that will lead us to total victory.

To capture something is easier than to remain its owner--this is not empty talk. What are we doing besides holding on to what we already have? Are we adding anything new to it? This then is the most pressing and important task our national entities have to accomplish, beginning with the political parties. Are we able to give a soothing, comforting and hopeful answer to the above question, and answer that both warms us and invigorates us? What are we doing to face the next assault that may come at any minute?

It is very important to take practical steps to answer this question and to allay the fears that have been discussed--more important, say, than our polite squabbles with one another aimed at appropriating the credit of the success, or derision of the opponent's authoritarian inclination, and all the while trying to bet the better of him, which is no less reproachful.

Who is it that gains anything by pretending that he has contributed more than another? How long will the vanity, the hunger for personal aggrandizement, remain the major defect of our political conduct?

Let no one pretend that he alone could have scored such a point against the opponent. It was the cooperation of everybody--Soviet Armenia, the Diaspora, foreign friends and even the circumstantial assistance given to the Armenian people by certain states and their public that have their own political reasons for feeling aversion toward Turkey. It was this cooperation that helped us arrive at this encouraging result.

But the urgent issue is no longer the question of what we gained and who did what, but what we have to do now and what we have to do to win the next encounter.

12364/12951

ARMENIAN

DELEGATION VISITS IRAQI ARMENIAN POW'S AT TEHRAN CAMP

46050025 Tehran ALIK in Armenian 11 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, Wednesday, 10 June 1987, an Armenian delegation paid a pre-arranged visit to Iraqi Armenian war prisoners at Tehran's Hashmatieh Camp.

The delegation was composed of Father Aharon det Kalousdian, Vicar of the Prelacy of the Armenians of Iran, Fathers Krikor der Bedrossian, Varaztad Derderian and Roupen Hairabedian, as well as members of the Community Council, the Armenian section of aid to the war imposed on Iran, and the Committee of Public Relations, and representatives of the journal ALIK.

The delegation was welcomed by Shah-Panah, commanding officer of the camp, a number of officials and two Christian (Assyrian) prisoners of war. In his words of welcome, one of the prisoners denounced the war imposed on Iran by the Saddam regime and the plots hatched against Iran by the superpowers. At the end of his address, he presented a bouquet of flowers to the Vicar of the Prelacy. Then the visitors were led to the office of the camp commander, where Colonel Shah-Panah uttered a few words of welcome and gave some explanations about the daily life of the prisoners.

It was made clear that the prisoners were in constant correspondence with their families, who could visit them in all freedom. Their hygienic needs are constantly taken care of, their water supply is purified, they are well supplied with medication, and they always have abundant food which is constantly subjected to medical examination. The prisoners are free to pursue their religious rites and participate in athletic games and contests. Those who wish to work can do so in workshops where they can receive wages for their labor in addition to the monthly compensation paid to all of them. They have their own theatrical and choral groups which frequently put on shows. They have bedsteads and convenient mattresses. Despite the difficulties occasioned by the war which makes access to certain commodities and foods difficult for the general public, the prisoners are well provisioned; for instance, each receives 3.5 kilos of chicken meat monthly, five cakes of soap, etc.

At the end of his address, the colonel said that the regulations of the Geneva Convention are in force at all prisoner of war camps, a fact confirmed by representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations.

These same organizations have stated that the Saddam regime has treated our prisoners of war inhumanely.

One of the proofs of the disregard for human and international law manifested by the aggressive Iraqi regime is that its warplanes have bombed their camp, but fortunately the bombs exploded at a spot that caused no casualties. According to international law, prisoner of war camps with special markings on them should be free of bombardment. They should even be well lit at night, but the Iraqi regime has ignored these rules.

A short while later, the members of the Armenian delegation witnessed for themselves all that had been explained to them.

On behalf of the delegation, the chairman of the Communist Council, Dr Harmig Tavtian, thanked their host for having given them this opportunity and said that, knowing well the principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was clear to them, without hearing or seeing things at close range, that state officials have humanitarian attitudes toward prisoners. It is not because of conventions or decisions agreed upon in Geneva or at other international conferences, he said, that we have adopted such conduct toward our prisoners of war, but through our lofty principles. The international organizations have a great deal to learn from us.

Then, on behalf of the Community Council, books were donated to the commanding officers and the camp library. At the end of this encounter, Haj Agha Ghoutchan, in charge of the Ideological-Political Bureau, said a few words of welcome and of thanks.

After refreshments, the Armenian representatives and the Armenian clergy, led by Haj Agha Ghoutchan, went among thousands of war prisoners, stopping here and there. Everywhere prisoners would yell "death to America," "death to the Soviet Union," "death to Israel," "death to Saddam." After listening to diaphonic singing by a prisoner-of-war chorale, the Armenian delegates went into the prisoners' dormitories to see the well-ordered and neatly kept beds. In general, all were clean.

Then they visited one of the workshops used by tailors, where some of the prisoners were at work.

Following that, the delegation, accompanied by Assyrian and Armenian prisoners, went into a theater where prisoners successfully presented a play.

Then some Assyrian prisoner painters donated to the Armenian Prelacy three of their paintings; one was a picture of Christ and the other two were scenes.

In expressing his thanks for the display, Dr. H. Tavtian said, among other things, that as the leader of the country, Imam Khomeyni, had said, this war imposed on us has had its beneficial effects, such as the solidarity that has been strengthened all the more by the pressure from outside forces as well as the drastic decisions which we took to make the country self-sufficient.

The doctor then expressed the conviction that this war will end with the decisive victory of the Iranian soldiers and people, that the intervention of Saddam and the superpowers in the region will be cut short, and that our people will concentrate all their energies on the betterment of the country and the promotion of artistic activities.

Shortly thereafter, a meeting was held in the gymnasium with Armenian and Assyrian prisoners of war. An Armenian prisoner said that on the whole, they were comfortable, free to indulge in their Christian religious practices, that they were generally treated well, in a brotherly fashion, and that they had no problems.

The Armenian clergymen then officiated in a short religious ceremony for the Christian prisoners, who followed it with fervor. Then Father Aharon gave an address in Armenian condemning the Iraqi incursion and expressed the hope that the war will end with the total victory of the Iranian people. He also wished longevity for the Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. An Armenian prisoner translated his speech into Arabic.

Later, the Armenian delegates visited the camp's Red Crescent hospital, the infirmaries and wards, and looked at the medical instruments. The doctors and officials in this sector are on 24-hour duty in caring for the sick prisoners.

In a farewell address, the delegates again thanked the office of the commander and all the other responsible people. It was noteworthy that during the visit, the camp officials always referred to the prisoners as "guests."

12364/7358

ARMENIAN

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF LEBANESE ARMENIANS PORTRAYED

46050022b Tehran ALIK in Armenian 3 Jun 87 p 4

[Text] As we have pointed out on several occasions, the Armenian community of Lebanon has maintained the particular form of its national structures in various fields.

We have gathered information about a certain number of organizations active in the economic field from the 168-page New Year special edition of our colleague publication, AZTAG.

First of all, last year the National Council--, whose budget comes from monthly dues gathered from some 8,000 families-- has given our scholarships to 750 students at 50 schools. The council has also purchased a supermarket of 850 square meters and has considered the possibility of creating or reorganizing cooperatives of consumers, lending establishments and medical services in Bourj Hammoud. It has also, through its employment office, found good-paying jobs for more than 175 men. It has covered the medical expenses of 35 wounded people and has financially helped 30 people of special category. Scores of other people have profited from the services of its counseling office.

The Regional Council of the Armenian Relief Society [ARS] of Lebanon, intensifying its activities, has added an infirmary to its center, with increased personnel and laboratory facilities. It has organized a training course for aid-nurses, while in schools it has set up courses on social hygiene topics and sex education. It has started the building of the ARS Bulghourjian sociomedical center which will also serve for educational purposes.

The Eagle's Nest of Catholicosate of Cilicia has continued caring for needy children from ages 6 to 12 while 225 children have benefited from the ARS vacation camp. The ARS has also helped in other restoration and building projects.

The cooperative credit union (MENSA), whose activities include lending money, faced financial difficulties due to the economic crisis, although the number of its members has risen to 1,200.

The center for the handicapped has rendered service in various areas in the district of Bourj Hammoud, through its home for the blind (35 residents), its home for the aged (30 residents, its school for slow learners (around 35 pupils), its carpentry shop and school for the deaf (with 11 pupils) work has started on the construction of a home for the aged with a capacity for 100 old people.

The Howard Karageuzian Foundation has taken charge of the medical care of thousands of children with the help of its three infirmaries, the annual medical checkup of pupils in some 30 schools, its eye clinic, its dental clinic and its social services office.

There are also social centers for vocational training and the instruction of young people.

The Jinishian Foundation has continued its social services in various ways --a day-care center, medical care and services, financial help, care of the aged, educational and loan programs, distribution of clothing, assistance to charitable foundations, social improvements, etc.

The Fund for Armenian Economic Reform, which operates through funds contributed mainly by Armenian communal councils, gave out 502 loans totaling around 12.5 million Lebanese pounds in the period February to October 1986.

The creation of residential zones for the Fanar region, undertaken by the Catholicosate of Cilicia for the purpose of improving the standard of living, has been pursued with great vigor and is in the final stages.

In addition, individual initiatives have also been undertaken, the most exciting of which is the Harboyan Commercial Center to be constructed in Bourj Hammoud, with 275 stores, 4 banks, restaurants and a three-store parking garage with a capacity of 1,200 cars.

12364/12951

ARTICLE DISCUSSES EDUCATIONAL STATUS IN SOVIET ARMENIA

46050022a Tehran ALIK in Armenian 13 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] The Fifth Congress of Teachers of Armenia was held in Yerevan on 27 April 1987.

Minister of Education S. Hakhoumian and the president of the State Committee on Professional and Technical Education, H.S. Kotanjian, each read a paper. The following information on the status of education in Armenia is extracted from the paper presented by Hakhoumian.

There are 1,337 schools in the republic with a total student population of 575,000. There exist 1,206 elementary schools with around 150,000 pupils. In the last 5 years, 150 new schools have been added accommodating 75,000 pupils. In the same period, 160 preschool buildings were built with 32,000 seats.

In Armenia, children with difficulties are taught at 30 special and remedial schools, together with 50 boarding schools, totaling some 10,000 places.

In the current academic year, 25,000 6-year-olds were admitted to school for the first time, at the first grade level. According to forecasts, 45,000 6-year-old children had been expected to register in first-year classes. The reason for this failure, according to the report of "Armen-Press," is the slack control exercised by the Ministry of Education and the indifference of the local soviets of the education departments of some regions such as Yerevan, Martouni, Hrazdan, and Noyemberian.

The number of schools specializing in "in-depth Russian-language teaching" stands today at 123. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia at its plenary session held in October criticized the low level of Russian instruction, especially in schools in rural areas.

There are already 50 educational cabinets equipped with calculating machines functioning in schools in Armenia, and there are 165 schools with cabinets equipped with computers, a high proportion of which can be programmed.

Of the teachers of 4th to 10th year classes, 94 percent have had higher education. Last year, 17,700 teachers participated in periodic education courses.

Of the 13,252 people who work in preschool establishments, only 3,585 (28 percent) have had college education as against 6,988 in secondary schools; 2,670 teachers continue to work with only general secondary school education.

AGREEMENT FACILITATES COOPERATION AMONG GCC MEMBER STATES

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Aug 87 pp 32-34

[Article: "GCC: What Has Economic Agreement Accomplished and Which Parts of Agreement Have Been Implemented?"]

[Text] Riyadh--What has the GCC economic agreement accomplished and which parts of the agreement have been implemented?

The GCC unified economic agreement was concluded on 11 November 1981 in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, during the second session of the Supreme Council, which includes the kings and amirs of the GCC member states. In accordance with the stipulations of Article 26, the agreement became effective 4 months later. However, the member states' ratification of the agreement took a full year, with Kuwait's ratification delivered on 1 November 1982. Bahrain was the first to ratify it, doing so only 45 days after the agreement was concluded.

In its third session, held in Bahrain 9-11 November 1982, the Supreme Council decided to launch the agreement's executive steps as of 1 March 1983. In the council's latest session, hosted by Abu Dhabi from 2-5 November 1986, the council agreed to program implementation of the unified economic agreement. According to the Economic Department of the GCC General Secretariat, the accomplishments in implementing the economic agreement, which represents the first brick in the edifice of economic integration, are embodied in the following six major axes:

Freeing multilateral trade and unifying customs tariff: Article 2 of the unified economic agreement stipulates that "all agricultural, livestock, and industrial products and natural-resource products of national origin shall be exempted from customs fees and from other fees with a similar impact." For industrial products to be identified as being of national origin (article 3), it is required that the added value resulting from their production in these countries shall not be less than 40 percent the product's value when fully manufactured and that ownership by citizens of the member states in the industrial establishments turning out the product shall not be less than 51 percent.

Fees have now been canceled between the GCC member states on agricultural, livestock, and industrial products and natural-resource products. As for

customs fees levied on foreign goods, the member states have been trying to agree on a unified tariff. In its previous session, held from 18-19 May 1983, the Ministerial Council approved the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee's resolution that the minimum customs fees levied on foreign goods imported to the GCC member states shall be 4 percent and the maximum fees 20 percent.

The Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee also decided to levy a minimum customs fee of 30 percent on goods of a special nature, leaving it up to the member states to raise this percentage if they so wish. What is meant by goods of a special nature is tobacco and its by-products. The member states look forward to completing creation of the Gulf common market. In this connection, these countries' officials are coordinating to unify the customs tariff vis-a-vis the outside world.

To facilitate the transportation of industrial and agricultural products and goods, "the attribute of 'national transportation means' has been given to transportation means owned by citizens of any of the member states," as stipulated by Article 18 of the agreement. When various products are transported between the GCC member states, no special measures are taken or specific forms used. Documents proving ownership of the means of transportation of goods or passengers (a permit or license) and the requirement that the vehicle be driven by its owner or accompanied by the owner are considered sufficient. Any member state may grant other facilities to one or more of the other member states.

The member states adhere to Article 5 of the agreement, which requires these states to "grant all the facilities for the transit movement of the goods of any member state to the other member states and to exempt such goods from all fees and taxes."

Rules of Economic Citizenship

Entrenching economic citizenship: Article 2 of the economic agreement is considered a mainstay for entrenching economic citizenship. This article stipulates that the "member states shall agree on the rules that guarantee that the member states' citizens are treated as equals of the citizens of any member state and without any discrimination or distinction in the following areas: 1) free movement, work, and residence; 2) the right to own, inherit, and bequeath; 3) the freedom to engage in economic activity; and 4) the free movement of capital."

At the outset, such activity may not exceed 25 percent in the industrial, agricultural, livestock, and fish resource areas, with this activity fully released after 5 years. It is possible for the GCC citizens to practice medicine, law, accounting, and engineering and to open engineering offices and administrative, economic, technical, agricultural, fishing, and industrial consulting offices in any of the member states after getting the registration and licensing ordinarily required of similar citizens in the host member state.

In its fourth session, held in Doha from 7-9 November 1983, the ministerial council added further activities, including the setting up of hotels and restaurants and engaging in maintenance work for the economic activities in which the citizens of other member states are already entitled to engage. The door has been left open for allowing these citizens to engage in further economic activities. The opportunity is also left open for any member state to demand that its citizens own no more than 25 percent of the establishments set up for these purposes within a period of 5 years as of the date of application.

Now that the door has been opened for qualified pharmacists to practice their profession in the GCC member states, the concept of equality among the GCC citizens has expanded to include professionals engaged in their professions, including craftsmen who are entitled to obtain all the services which enable them to engage in their craft and which are ordinarily enjoyed by the host member state's citizens. These services include direct marketing of the craftsmen's products through direct sale to distributors, wholesalers, or consumers. Such craftsmen are also entitled to take part in setting up firms to engage in these activities.

In accordance with the economic agreement, the GCC citizens can own real estate in the member countries in accordance with the rules and regulations of each member state. Whereas the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allows the GCC citizens unconditional real estate ownership to personal housing and to an area of no more than 3,000 square meters.

Any member state can export its national products to any other member state without being required to have a local agent. The Supreme Council also decided to unify the service fees for refined oil products and gas, with preferential treatment given the national products so as to protect them. In accordance with the agreement, GCC investors are permitted to obtain loans from the member states' industrial development banks and funds and are treated equally like the native investor in terms of qualifying for such loans.

GCC citizens may also engage in retail trade in the member states. What is meant by retail trade is buying and selling to the consumer without a middleman and from a licensed business place. As for the wholesale trade, which is the activity of selling, buying, importing, and exporting through a licensed business, it will be permitted as of 1990.

To encourage the Gulf national industries, priority in government purchases has been given to national products and to production of national origin, keeping in mind the presence of the elements of competitive quality, price, and delivery. A preferential price of no more than 10 percent is given the national product over a foreign product and a preferential price of no more than 5 percent is given the national product over similar products of national origin.

Development Policy

Coordinating development policies and strategies: The GCC member states believe that achieving economic integration dictates that the "member states

should exert efforts to achieve coordination and harmony in their development plans," according to Article 10 of the unified economic agreement. The member states have relied on free economy as a basis for development. These states are exerting efforts to establish policies that develop the manpower, that serve balance between the production sectors and the service sectors, and that open the door to the private sector to contribute more to the various economic spheres and to encourage this sector to interact positively with government policies.

The council member states have adopted a unified agricultural policy which relies on the "ideal utilization of water resources and insuring food security from national resources." The agricultural policy seeks agricultural integration between the member states, as it seeks to achieve the highest level possible of self-sufficiency in food commodities. As evidence of this, Saudi wheat is sold in the Gulf markets now that Saudi Arabia has attained self-sufficiency in wheat.

In November 1985, the Supreme Council's sixth session approved the Industrial Cooperation Committee's resolutions on the issue of the unified industrial development strategy. These resolutions encompass the unified strategy's main objectives which include "enhancing industrialization in each state on an integrated and balanced basis while focusing on certain industries that are founded on developing and utilizing the local natural resources and channeling the local production agencies to meet local needs." One policy adopted in implementation of this strategy is the policy of "encouraging the private sector's initiatives to set up industrial projects and to participate with the governments in setting up feasible industrial projects in order to complement the private sector's effort."

Monetary and Fiscal Coordination

Coordinating fiscal and monetary policies: The unified economic agreement encompasses the aspiration of achieving economic integration by "having the member states coordinate their fiscal, monetary, and banking policies, increasing cooperation between the monetary institutions and central banks, and exerting efforts to unify their currency so that it may complement the desired economic integration," according to Article 22. In its sixth session, the Supreme Council decided to instruct the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee to study the method for implementing the stipulations of the said article. Consultations continue to be held between the monetary and fiscal officials to develop a unified strategy.

Encouraging joint projects: The Supreme Council has given priority to the joint projects so as to bolster cohesion and unity between the GCC member states. The GCC Secretariat coordinates with the member states' authorities concerned, with the Gulf Investment Organization, with the Gulf Industrial Consulting Organization, and with the World Bank's International Financing Establishment to set up projects proven by studies to be economically feasible. Article 23 stipulates that "within the framework of the coordination activities, the member states shall devote special attention to setting up and bolstering joint projects between them in the industrial, agricultural, and service areas,

employing public, private, or joint capital to achieve economic integration, intermeshed production, and common development on sound economic bases."

Integration vis-a-vis Outside World

Developing single policy to deal with outside world: In their economic dealings with the outside world, the GCC member states try to implement Article 7, which states: "The member states shall coordinate their trade policies and relations with the other countries and with the regional economic blocs and groupings in an effort to create the conditions and circumstances for equal trade with the others. To achieve this objective, the member states shall adopt the policy of coordinating and organizing imports and exports, shall coordinate their policies to accumulate a strategic food store, shall conclude economic agreements jointly, and shall exert efforts to develop a collective bargaining power that bolsters their position when negotiating with foreign parties."

In its seventh session, held in Abu Dhabi, the Supreme Council agreed to continue negotiations and contacts with the international economic groups, such as the European Community, Japan, and the United States. Negotiations with the European Community have made considerable strides. The latest meeting between the two sides was held in Brussels last June. The GCC member states were represented at the meeting by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi minister of foreign affairs; by Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; and by 'Abdallah Bisharah, the GCC secretary general.

Number of Citizens Taking Advantage of Unified Economic Agreement on Freedom of Individuals To Engage in Economic Activities in GCC Member States

<u>Country</u>	<u>UAE</u>	<u>Bahrain</u>	<u>Saudi Arabia</u>	<u>Oman</u>	<u>Qatar</u>	<u>Kuwait</u>	<u>Total</u>
UAE	-	99	60	79	33	154	425
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Saudi Arabia	32	6	-	-	-	5	43
Oman	33	4	2	-	1	18	58
Qatar	40	32	24	14	-	9	119
Kuwait	3	2	53	-	1	-	59
Total	108	143	139	93	35	187	705

[Box, p 33]

Chronology of Unified Economic Agreement's Implementation:

March 1983: Abolition of customs fees on national products; GCC citizens permitted to engage in economic activities, including the practice of medicine, law, engineering, and accounting; necessary facilities provided for transit goods; transportation means owned by GCC citizens treated as national transportation means.

March 1984: All GCC craftsman citizens permitted to engage in their crafts in GCC member states without discrimination or distinction.

March 1985: Real estate ownership in GCC member states.

March 1986: Economic products permitted to be marketed in all member states without the need for a local agent; national products given priority in government bids; a joint agricultural policy; a unified industrial strategy; environmental protection in GCC member states.

March 1987: GCC citizens permitted to engage in retail trade; beneficiaries permitted to obtain loans from GCC member states' industrial development banks and funds.

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CSO: 44040453

SUDANESE PM'S VACILLATION ON RELATIONS WITH EGYPT QUESTIONED

45040300 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 15 Aug 87 p 24

[Article by Ihsan Bakr]

[Text] Despite the fact that more than 2 years have passed since the popular rebellion in Sudan which toppled former President Ja'far Numayri's regime, the question of Egyptian-Sudanese relations has not yet been resolved. There are still many clouds in the sky of relations between Cairo and Khartoum. The relations are still vacillating between ebb and tide, between rapprochement and estrangement, regardless of the friendly statements the two sides exchange asserting the everlasting and special character of these relations, and regardless of the never-ending numerous and continual visits during the past 2 years between Sudanese and Egyptian officials. Even the visit by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Prime Minister and leader of the Ummah Party, to Cairo last February, which he made after a long reluctance on his part, has, contrary to expectations, failed to do away with sensitivities, misunderstandings, and mutual doubts.

The fact of the matter is that relations between the two nations of the Nile Valley have reached a standstill, going one step forward, then one step (or more) backwards. Following the popular rebellion in April 1985 and amid the escalating revolution and enthusiasm, campaigns of criticism and doubts concerning the relations between Egypt and Sudan were unleashed. The integration and joint defense agreements received the lion's share of condemnation. It was said then that integration was a high-level meeting dictated by Numayri and al-Sadat's personal interests. It was also said that the sole reason and political objective for the joint defense agreement was to ensure the means of protection and survival for Numayri and al-Sadat's respective regimes.

During the transitional government's rule, a series of decisions were issued to suspend the integration process. These included the cancellation of reduced air fares between Cairo and Khartoum, the abolition of the use of integration passes in citizen travel between the two countries, and the arrest of a number of Sudanese leaders responsible for integration programs and projects, as well as the closure of the integration offices in Khartoum. In the face of all that, Cairo observed a policy of self-restraint. It avoided a direct clash

occurring with the new Sudanese leadership and constantly declared its welcome for the Sudanese decisions, stressing that it is dealing with the new ruling regime in a legal manner.

When al-Sadiq al-Mahdi came to Cairo after a long absence--after having toured most of the Arab capitals (when Cairo ought to have been his first stop, for such has always been the history of relations between the two countries and two peoples)--he proposed a fraternity pact as a substitute for the integration agreement by which, as he put it in his own words, the mistakes of integration which the high-level meetings had killed would be avoided, a pact which is founded on the idea of unity. President Mubarak's agreement and response to the idea was immediate. The fraternity pact, as was drafted by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself, was merely an ordinary statement which in its content and text was no more than any traditional statement issued following visits by senior officials in other countries. Egypt accepted the fraternity pact as al-Mahdi wanted it. Several months after it was signed, no positive steps were taken to implement any of its provisions.

All these changes in the Sudanese position or, more precisely, in the Sudanese prime minister's position, occurred while Egypt was showing a great desire to maintain the appearance of good relations, to avoid getting involved in confrontations from which neither country would benefit, and also to avoid any differences that would affect the strategic ties between the two countries. The question of the joint defense agreement remained untouched by any talks about cancelling it or keeping it. It remained effective as Egypt, within the agreement's framework, offered the Sudan successive deals of arms and equipment free of charge over and above what was agreed upon in the military program between the two nations. In addition, Egypt provided the Sudanese commanders and officers with the opportunity to study in the Egyptian academies and institutes in the various specialties and armed forces services. The joint defense agreement was being implemented side by side with the military cooperation protocol that was signed between Sudan and Libya which some Sudanese political forces sought to promote and considered a substitute for the joint defense pact with Egypt. Then al-Mahdi suddenly came out with a statement which made many people wonder about his reasons and motives. The Sudanese Prime Minister said that the fraternity agreement which he signed in Cairo with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi cancels "all the previous agreements and treaties between the two countries," which was a clear reference to the joint defense agreement. At this point Egypt was compelled to abandon its earlier line and, for the first time, to issue a strongly worded statement attributed to an official Egyptian source declaring that "Egypt has often made it clear that it adheres to the joint defense agreement with Sudan only to the extent to which Sudan adheres to it. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must frankly declare that he wishes to cancel the agreement, in which case Egypt will not hesitate to respond to him." The Egyptian source concluded by warning that such statements harm the relations between the two countries.

Here we come to the question: What does al-Sadiq al-Mahdi really want from Egypt, and how does he actually see relations with Egypt?

I would say that no one in Egypt or Sudan has a definite answer to this question. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has adopted positions and made statements. In some of these statements, he praised the eternal and historical ties with Egypt, and in others he voiced much criticism and demanded the abrogation of Sudan's agreements with Egypt. Had the matter of resolving the question of relations between Sudan and Egypt been in al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's hand alone, it would be easy to say that his statements constitute the final say in the matter. But the matter of deciding these relations is not in his hand alone. Rather there are also the views of the other political forces in Sudan, which call for maintaining strong ties. Furthermore, the Constituent Assembly has not made any decisions about cancelling or maintaining the agreements, or on the right to determine the fate of these relations between the two peoples.

Nevertheless, we would put all these considerations aside and ask, just as a broad sector of the Egyptian and Sudanese people are asking along with us: What does al-Sadiq al-Mahdi really want from Egypt?

Proceeding from the principle of the eternal and historical ties between the sons of the same people, we call upon al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to initiate a popular dialogue on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, because the relationship between Egypt and Sudan is stronger and more lasting than any statements which might be necessitated by transient conditions or temporary calculations.

13305/12379

THREAT OF KHOMEYNI-STYLE VIOLENCE DISCUSSED

45040304 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Aug 87 p 5

[Muhammad al-Hayawan's "Word of Love" column]

[Text] There is no fear of Egypt being infiltrated by Khomeyni-style terrorism and rebellion because all the signs indicate the contrary; they confirm total failure of this terrorism after having harmed both itself and Islam and having the Islamic world's respect. Yet caution is necessary because just as terrorism was aimed at the Ka'bah it could be aimed at al-Azhar, and just as it exploited myths and legends in mobilizing Iran's children against Iraq, it could likewise fool some of our youths.

Confronting and exposing the Khomeyni movement is the task of the media and the imams, even al-Azhar.

Khomeyni's attack on the Ka'bah was his major downfall. His threats to Saudi Arabia mean that he insists on committing crime and aggression against that nation in its capacity as custodian of the two holy places, a role which it is performing as well as possible. Khomeyni's order that his picture be carried to the Ka'bah is polytheism and a call to idolatry.

Printing his picture in the Qur'an is the greatest of sins because it is a photographed crime that cannot be refuted, just as his crime against the Ka'bah was recorded with sound and picture which the Islamic world has seen. And so Khomeyni deserved the Islamic world's contempt and scorn.

Khomeyni's failure within Iran is even greater, but it is not made public nor known. We heard about it through foreign news agencies but we said that they were exaggerating and were deliberately distorting Islam's image. However, if we examine closely what happened in the Ka'bah, what is happening on the borders with Iraq and in Lebanon, and the threats that are being made against Kuwait--all this goes to confirm that Khomeyni's internal crisis is worsening and that he is trying to cover up his failure through a foreign peril that would once again rally the Iranian people around him and convince the Iranian people of the need to export revolution and terrorism to every place.

The most dangerous thing that the Khomeyni revolution has done was to appoint the National Guard as the guardian of the Shari'ah, passing judgment on individual intentions. Any Guard can decide that a certain person is an infidel, or that a certain woman has violated the laws of God and so deserves maximum punishment, which is immediately carried out. There is no law governing Iran. The Shari'ah faqihs disappeared from the scene after the Revolutionary Guard assumed the right to pass formal legal opinions. They are merely ignorant gangs driven by their desires; they interpret the Shari'ah any way they like, and probe into people's minds, something which Islam has totally banned.

The situation in Iran is gloomy, and Iran's actions beyond its borders epitomize terrorism, extremism, and violence which everyone rejects, including the Muslims. The testimony of the Muslims in this regard is stronger than any testimony the world could give. The Islamic world has condemned Iran's actions on the grounds that they are a distortion of Islam and a departure from Islam's propriety and tolerance, as well as contrary to its order to do good and shun evil. Also, Iran's alliances expose its plan, because it is the ally of al-Qadhdhafi and Israel.

What is happening in Iran is totally rejected in Egypt both by the masses and the government, because these actions undermine the safety and belief of the masses, and because extremism is alien to the Egyptian people. We did not learn extremism from our ulemas, nor did it ever occur on our land. Perhaps this is the reason why the security authorities are careful in their search and investigation, do not make charges against innocent people, and do not try to jump to conclusions. Instead they are patient and try to probe into the heart of terrorism, because it is alien to us and we are not accustomed to it.

The task of the Islamic groups in Egypt comes into play here. There is no doubt that they reject Khomeyni's style. They should reject this publicly. They reject being accused of terrorism, and so they should behave within this context by refusing to have terrorist elements in their ranks. The Muslim Brotherhood in the People's Assembly practices democracy; undoubtedly they are anxious to maintain it because it is better than Khomeyni's style and more capable of reaching the masses.

All the conditions in Egypt are against Khomeyni. All the conditions in Egypt require it to play an Islamic and Arab role. The Islamic group leaders are first and foremost responsible for the acts of terrorism that are taking place in Egypt, which are new to the country.

13305/9716

CAIRO UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL DEAN DISCUSSES EMERGENCY LAWS

45040301 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Aug 87 p 2

[Article by Zakariya Fikri]

[Excerpts] The tutorial staff club at the University of Alexandria held a seminar on "the exceptional laws and courts" in which Dr Mustafa Mahmud, former dean of the law faculty at Cairo University, participated. It was attended by Dr Jalal al-'Adawi, dean of the law faculty at the University of Alexandria, counselor Mustafa Salim, head of the Court of Cassation, lawyer 'Adil 'Id, Dr al-Shafi'i Bashir, professor of law at al-Mansurah University, and Dr Nabil Hashim, president of the tutorial staff club at the University of Alexandria.

Speaking at the beginning of the seminar, Dr Mahmud Mustafa said, "In its ancient and contemporary history Egypt did not experience such ugly laws, which goes to show that we have no legislators. What we have instead is a common functionary who sits down to pass legal opinions as he likes. The highest authority in the country is the judiciary authority, and so neither the president nor Rif'at al-Mahjub have the right to take it over."

Man is the Measure

Continuing, Dr Mahmud Mustafa said: "The subject of exceptional laws and courts is one that I have often discussed, wrote about, and lectured on at the bar association and the economy and legislation association. Speaking on this subject is like butting one's head against a rock, though repetition could be useful, since the question concerns human rights. At one of the meetings, one of those present asked me: 'Which of the eras that Egypt has been through was the best? Was it the revolution era, the era that preceded it, or the era after it? Was it 'Abd-al-Nasir's, al-Sadat's, or Mubarak's era? I said that any era which respects human rights is the best era, because man is the measure of everything. Any regime that has no respect for human rights has no value regardless of what it may have achieved, whether it built the High Dam or the subway train. All this is worth nothing. When the people are stacked in buses like matchsticks, it is a violation of human rights. When refuse fills the Corniche road or Abu-Qir street it is a violation of human rights. The crowds that stand in line at the cooperative societies' doors represent a violation of human rights."

There Are No Legislators

"The law," Dr Mustafa Mahmud said, "is just general rules acquired through study and experience. When a legislator deviates from these rules, there will be no law to govern. At the earlier People's Assembly session, a debate took place on the question of emergency law. A senior law professor dealt with the subject, but...Dr Kamil Laylah himself said that the emergency law is not an exceptional law because it was promulgated by the People's Assembly...Thus the People's Assembly has the right to legislate laws as it likes. Strangest of all is their claim that the emergency law is an ordinary law that is being applied in exceptional conditions. This is strange and contradictory; it calls for explaining what is an ordinary law and what is an extraordinary law. I have said this in the courts--that we have no legislators, either in the government or in the People's Assembly. There is nobody who is both qualified for legislation and has the capability to refer back to all the laws. We have numerous French and English laws, but do we have anybody who refers back to them?"

Dr Mustafa Mahmud wonders, "When did the exceptional laws and courts come into being? Was it before or after the revolution? In what era? A few years prior to the revolution, the law of criminal procedures was promulgated. It was a law for the innocent people because it provided safeguards for the innocent in accordance with the legal principle 'the accused is innocent until proven guilty.' Investigation used to be carried out by a judge. There used to be a shortage in the number of judges necessary for this; the Ministry of Justice did not have a sufficient number of them. So the minimum age of the judges was dropped from 30 to 28 years. When the revolution came, the pickax of destruction fell on these laws beginning on 25 December 1952. Here dictatorship began to emerge; investigation under the supervision of an investigating judge was abolished and was put under the supervision of the chief of prosecution, which is a very serious violation. The chamber of indictment was abolished in one of the most serious cases and the matter fell into the hands of the prosecution alone. As for the emergency law, which is an extension of the 1954 martial law, and which was officially proclaimed under number 162 of 1958, it was the worst emergency law in the whole world. I recall that when unity was established between us and Syria the latter used to follow the investigating judge system, but Egypt changed it to that of investigation under the supervision of the prosecution instead of the investigating judge. So instead of us rising to their level, we brought them down to ours. Following the separation, Syria resorted to the investigating judge system. In a lecture at the Syrian bar association, I strongly criticized the Syrian government to the extent that the Syrian chairman told me, 'they will deport you.' When Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad listened to a recording of the lecture, he commented: 'These are the words of a university professor and there is nothing wrong in them.' If this was Hafiz al-Asad's reaction when he heard my talk, would anyone here say such a thing?"

Constitutional Violation

Dr Mahmud Mustafa said, "The emergency law is a violation of the principle of 'no punishment and no crime except by law.' It should be restricted in its use only for when orders are violated. There is no need for hard labor or non-hard labor punishment. When the head of state proposes an emergency law, he

would be violating the constitution because he only has executive power, but by so doing he is assuming all the three powers, so he has the right to pass sentences of hard labor for life. This is the right of the legislative power and the parliament. The emergency law gives the president the power of the judiciary. This constitutes contempt of the judiciary. The state's most important and highest authority is the judiciary. The legislator has no right to say that Rif'at al-Mahjub is the highest power! With the emergency law, the head of state acquires judicial powers; he rules on the nature of the case or refers it to court. That is, he has the power of public prosecution, and he forms the court the way he likes with either civilian or military judges. The court must exist at the time the crime is committed, and not after it. It should not be specially set up by the president of the republic after the crime has taken place.

"In accordance with the emergency law, the courts' sentences cannot be contested. Hartz, a professor of English law, said at one conference that 'martial law means the absence of law.' For this reason Britain did not take recourse to martial law, not even during World War II. When people speak today about the sovereignty of law, I tell them that Egypt is not ruled by law! Rather the law is applied to the weak; the innocent are being arrested without guilt and the police are overstepping legal measures in order to terrorize individuals and search homes at night. After the judiciary releases the detained persons, they are arrested again. In the light of this, it cannot be said that we are ruling under the sovereignty of law. The solution to the basic problem is to abolish the emergency law."

Military Laws

Dr Mahmud Mustafa asserts that one of the ill-reputed military laws was promulgated in 1966. It is the worst law in the world, and it incorporates absolutely no guarantees [of rights]! It was issued by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir after he failed to control the judiciary. It is said that the Egyptian military legal system is taken from the English system. But the English system has a vast administration and the military judges are only jurors. The British system gives a soldier the choice to be tried before a military court or an ordinary court. If sentenced by the military court, he has the right to appeal before an ordinary civilian criminal court. But in Egypt we choose from the law what we like and ignore much of it. I recall that I was participating in the committee for amending the penal code. We faced a problem with a certain text, and so I asked for the French penal code. 'What French law?' the committee chairman asked me. 'We cut our galabia to our own size,' he said. In the meantime, we have the common functionary 'passing legal opinions,' and the legal principles we have are repetitive."

The Law for Detention Under Suspicion

"With regard to the law for detention under suspicion in Egypt it is similarly found in all the Arab countries that were under British rule, such as Sudan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Egypt. The British did not rule without these laws but they never expanded them, while the revolutionary government did expand them. Customarily the law is not put to the test except when a misbehavior occurs. We cannot test a case that is not apparent. This is illogical!

"The law for detention under suspicion" punishes anyone who is "reputed for" committing crimes of destruction, theft, or poisoning of animals. The use of the term "reputed" is illegal. Who is this person who is "reputed" for committing a crime? What is happening is a serious violation of the constitution and the law. On the basis of my professorship I would say without bias in favor of anybody that the government that respected human rights most was the Wafd government. If we want to reform political life, the laws that were promulgated since 23 July 1952 should be abolished."

Commenting on the talk, Dr Nabil Hashim, president of the tutorial staff club, said: "Thanks to the man who says the truth without fear of blame. The public is sick of the continual snake-hissing by the sycophants. Let this be an opportunity to go back to sound instinct, that is, to listen to a man of law and justice. Indeed, any regime that violates human rights cannot enjoy the people's protection, and minority rule is always accompanied by violation of human rights."

13305/9716

ROLE OF WOMEN IN WARRING IRAQ DESCRIBED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jul 87 p 7

[Report on interview with Ilham al-Zubaydi, member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, by Khulud al-Ja'uni in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] During our visit to sisterly Iraq as members of the Jordanian press delegation invited by the Iraqi Ministry of Information to cover the August celebrations, we had a meeting with Mrs Ilham a-Zubaydi, member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Iraqi Women. Speaking about the Iraqi women's role, she said:

Iraqi women have undertaken their responsibility in strengthening the domestic front, the cohesion of the family, and the management of production in order to meet the requirements of the battle in all fields and on all levels.

In the economic field, Iraqi women are regarded as the effective and influential factor in administering, directing, and managing the economic and social affairs behind the frontlines. In this regard women are facing challenges which include maintaining production and increasing productivity with a view to ensuring the mobilization of forces and resources in order to confront aggression. Furthermore, consumption must be rationalized and spending must be cut in the community particularly on consumer goods in order to save hard currency for the country. It is known that because of the length and breadth of the front with the enemy and of the fact that men, especially the youth, join the military services and the People's Army ranks--the men representing the basic manpower on which production in all the industrial, service, and agricultural sectors depends--job vacancies have been created which the Iraqi woman had to fill.

Women's Social Role

Speaking about the Iraqi women's social role, Mrs al-Zubaydi said: The family is the society's basic nucleus. Society's strength and ability to face internal and external challenges depends on the family's development and cohesiveness. Relations within the Iraqi family are characterized by cohesion and strong ties among its members. A woman shares with the man the family's responsibility. In addition to carrying out the necessary domestic chores

that are necessary to satisfy the various needs of the family members, caring for the children, following up their education, and showering them with affection that would compensate for the father's absence, she is also anxious to inculcate in the children the various values of heroism and sacrifice.

Women and the War

Speaking about Iraqi women's participation in the war, Mrs al-Zubaydi said: Women's participation in this field is obvious. On the international level the women had often played mayors roles in wars, whether in military combat, nursing, operating behind the enemy lines, or working on the domestic front.

Iraqi women have sought to enlighten the female masses with the aim of strengthening national unity in order to confront and thwart aggression. They have also carried out their duty fully in supporting the battlefront and have always declared their willingness to actually participate in the battle.

The Federation of Iraqi Women

Speaking about the activities of the Federation of Iraqi women, Mrs al-Zubaydi said that it was formed on 4 March 1969. It is regarded to be one of the fundamental gains achieved for Iraqi women because through it the women have been able to exercise their positive struggle role in order to realize total liberation through their participation and equality with men in building the new Iraq. Belief in women's liberation and civilian rights has become a matter of course in Iraq procedding from the principle of affecting changes in society in order to develop it.

The Federation's Objectives

The Federation, she added, aims at raising the standard of Iraqi women by all means possible, preparing them to play an effective role in the Arab nation's battle, developing sisterly ties between Arab women, achieving progressive unity for the Arab women's movement, supporting and assisting world liberation movements, and achieving the best possible forms of solidarity with the world's progressive and friendly women's organizations. The Federation is pursuing every possible option in order to achieve its objectives. Its work in this field is complementary to official and popular efforts to develop and liberate society and achieve total liberation for women.

Rural Women

With regard to rural women, Mrs al-Zubaydi said that women in the countryside represent 44 percent of the total workforce. These women contribute to raising production levels and developing the social and economic life of rural women. She said there is an increasing number of women that favor specializing in the agricultural field. The rate of women among those specializing in this field is 21 percent of those holding vocational degrees, 29 percent of those holding agricultural degrees and 22.5 percent of university graduates in agricultural specialization.

Ambitious Development Plan

She added: Successive ambitious development plans have been accompanied by an increasing demand for labor and an increasing response by women to the call of work. The rate of women working in the processing industries is 10 percent, There are various expanding programs aimed at developing the ability and efficiency of working women. The rate of women in technological institutes is 19 percent, in agricultural institutes 28 percent, and commercial institutes 72 percent. As the number of women in factories and public services is increasing, their effective role in professional organizations and trade unions is increasing as well. The woman is represented in all the trade unions and professional organizations. The leadership of trade unions and professional organizations is today witnessing an active participation by their female members who have reached the highest levels of professionalism.

Mrs al-Zubaydi said that women's participation in all professions and jobs is increasing. Women today represent 46 percent of teachers, 29 percent of doctors, 70 percent of pharmacists, 15 percent of accountants, and 21 percent of public servants.

Concluding the interview, Mrs al-Zubaydi expressed her appreciation and admiration for the Jordanian women who have assumed some of the most senior posts and are contributing to all kinds of work with their education and consciousness. She stressed that the General Federation of Iraqi Women is proud to participate in the conference and occasions held by the Jordanian General Federation of Women.

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CSO: 4404/0451

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT OF AL-'AQABAH FREE ZONE

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 87 p 13

[Article by Ahmad al-Khammash: "Fifteen-year Experience with Free Zones in Jordan"]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah--The Free Zones Establishment is one of the kingdom's vanguard establishments by virtue of its direct and significant impact on the Jordanian economy.

Al-'Aqabah free zone plays a major role in serving foreign trade and the transit trade of goods transported by sea via al-'Aqabah Port.

To shed light on this important and influential aspect of our local economy, AL-DUSTUR interviewed Muhammad al-Hanaqitah, director of al-'Aqabah free zone, who said:

Creation of Free Zones

Jordan's free zones were created in the 1973-75 period, which is considered a creation and experimentation period. The free zones were created when the government realized the benefits and advantages that could accrue to the national economy, considering that these zones represent important commercial and industrial centers by virtue of the concessions, facilities, exemptions, and incentives they offer to attract various investments.

This conviction was reinforced by the geographic position and by the political, economic, and security stability enjoyed by Jordan. Thus, the year 1975 witnessed the free zone's birth with the growing demand for free zones. With this in mind, it was decided to expand the areas allocated for the free zones and the government decided to set aside nearly 2,000 donums ~~for~~ the free zone at the city's eastern entrance on al-'Aqabah Airport Road. The zone includes cold storage facilities capable of holding 6,000 tons of frozen goods.

Al-'Aqabah Free Zone's Objectives

Al-Hanaqitah added: Al-'Aqabah free zone's objectives include encouraging foreign investment, attracting Arab and foreign capital to invest in proposed projects that will provide work opportunities and skilled labor for the

creation and operation of industries, developing industrial exports, reducing the deficit in the balance of payments, enhancing the public sector's revenues, and strengthening its link with the national economy by providing the raw materials or the infrastructures needed by the industries in the free zones. The free zones also seek to transfer advanced technology and expertise to Jordan, to encourage Arab and international cooperation, and to bolster local and international development.

Free Zone's Duties

Regarding the free zone's duties, al-Hanaqitah said: One of the duties of the Free Zones Establishment is to set up and develop the warehouses and installations needed by the free zones to insure their growth and prosperity, to manage and utilize these zones and put them at the national economy's service, and to develop international trade, the transit trade, and the export industries.

The zones also implement the rules and regulations of customs control and currency control and provide the installations needed for this purpose.

Exemptions and Privileges

As for the exemptions and privileges enjoyed by projects set up in the free zones, al-Hanaqitah said: Project profits are exempt from income and social service taxes for a period of 12 years. The salaries and allowances of non-Jordanian employees working in projects set up in the free zones are exempt from the income and social service taxes.

Goods imported in to and exported from a free zone to a foreign market are exempt from import and customs fees and other taxes, excluding service and salary fees. Premises and real-estate installations built in the free zones are exempt from the building and land taxes. Moreover, capital invested in projects is permitted to be remitted to the outside world in accordance with the regulations in force. Products exported to the local market are exempt from customs fees to the limit of the value of the local materials, costs, and expenditures involved in manufacturing such goods.

Free Zones' Contribution to Development

Regarding the free zones' contribution to bolstering the national economy, al-Hanaqitah said: In the 1974-83 period, al-'Aqabah free zone's revenues amounted to 11.7 million dinars. In 1984, those revenues amounted to 3 million dinars as a result of the rapid growth of the transit traffic. In 1986, the revenues amounted to 617,472 dinars as a result of the economic recession in the area.

As for the free zone's contribution to employment, a total of 1,000 employees and workers are currently employed in the free zone's various sectors. The area currently leased in al-'Aqabah amount to 160,000 square meters and a total of 26 private-sector firms and establishments, mostly foreign firms

dealing through Jordanian transport companies, have invested in the free zone. The area prepared for goods storage amounts to 600,00 square meters.

The following chart demonstrates the volume of goods entering and exiting al-'Aqabah free zone:

Year	Tons Entering	Tons Exiting
1981	815,169	152,829
1984	278,139	205,462
1986	80,228	52,320

Problems and Impediments

Responding to a question on the problems and impediments experienced by the free zone, al-Hanaqitah said:

The most significant obstacles impeding the free zone's performance emanate from the fact that the free zone concept is still a new concept to numerous citizens and local investors. Moreover, reliance on customs revenues as a main source of the state treasury curtails the activities of the other economic institutions, such as the free zones. The customs law contains numerous provisions which directly affect the freedom and flexibility of investment in the free zones. There is an evident contradiction between the customs law and the free zone. The government is taking serious steps to eliminate these contradictions. There is also a tendency to give the free zones a greater and more influential role.

Moreover, the Free Zones Establishment suffers because there are no Arab and international propaganda and advertizing campaigns to help explain the Jordanian free zones' benefits and objectives and to familiarize others with the investment climate Jordan enjoys. The establishment is in the process of creating a public relations and information department to take charge of this task.

Moreover, the fact that the free zone has no warehouses and storage yards located in the port itself creates some loading, unloading, and handling difficulties, thus saddling the investors with an extra burden and cost of 4-7 dinars per ton.

Furthermore, the law does not spell out the free zones' jurisdiction and responsibilities explicitly and clearly. There is a contradiction between some of the authorities involved, such as the customs service and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the investors. This contradiction deprives the free zones of independent decision-making compatible with the investment and the investors' interests and makes it impossible to embrace a single-door policy with the investors.

Future Aspirations

As for al-'Aqabah free zones's future aspirations, the zone director said:

The Free Zones Establishment aspires for the modernization of its law so that it may overcome the duality and contradiction with other laws. The establishment hopes that the new provisions will offer greater exemptions and incentives than those offered by the current law, especially since the new investment-encouragement law has doubled the exemptions, benefits, and incentives.

We also aspire for the establishment of a long-range economic strategy and for management modernization through reinforcing the management with high qualifications and training its workers according to modern bases so that these workers may be familiarized with the free zones' concept and objectives.

The free zone is in the process of creating a special section to take charge of solving the investors' problems with all the departments concerned so that the investor's relationship may be confined to the free zone. The zone is also in the process of creating a public relations department to take charge of the tasks of propaganda and of familiarization with the benefits of Jordan's free zones so as to encourage Arab and foreign investment. It is also necessary to set up a special planning and research department to draw up a long-range strategy and to establish a vocational training institute to supply the factories with skill and semi-skill manpower capable of using sophisticated modern equipment.

The establishment also seeks to set up a free zone within the port to serve departures and arrivals via al-'Aqabah Port so as to strengthen the local economy the way other international airports and ports do.

We also aspire to study the possibility of turning al-'Aqabah City into a "free-city." This depends on the outcome of the study.

8494/12951
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DECISION MADE TO OPEN WEST BANK VISITOR REGISTRATION CENTERS

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 87 p 2

[Article: "Four Centers to Open Today for Registration of West Bank and Gaza Visitors"]

[Text] Amman--A source in the Public Security Directorate announced that it has been decided to open as of today, Sunday, centers in Amman, Irbid, al-Zarqa', an al-Balqa' to register persons who wish to visit the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The source added that it has been decided that the first center, located in Arwa Bint al-Harith School, Rainbow Cinema Street, Jabal Amman, Amman Province, will register the names of inhabitants of Jerusalem and Hebron Governorates. The second center, located in Her Highness Princess Basmah Elementary School, close to al-Muntazah in Jabal al-Luwaybidah, will register inhabitants of Gaza Strip. The third center, in al-Husayn Elementary Girls School, located behind al-Quds Cinema in Jabal al-Husayn, will register inhabitants of Nabulus Governorate.

The source added that the Irbid Rescue Police Section will register inhabitants of Jerusalem, Nabulus, and Hebron Governorates whereas al-Balqa' City Police Section will register inhabitants of Nabulus and Hebron Governorates. Al-Zarqa' Refugee Camp Police Section will register inhabitants of Jerusalem, Hebron, and Nabulus Governorates.

The source added that reservations made at the bridge centers will be used as a basis and that reservations for entry via King Hysayn Bridge will be started as of next Wednesday and reservations for entry via Prince Muhammad Bridge will be started as of Thursday, 23 July 1987, because dates prior to these two dates are reserved for those who made their reservations earlier.

Public Security Director

On the other hand, Staff Lieutenant General Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, the public security director, said in comment on what was recently raised about the registration centers that practical experience in 1985 proved that the number of people who wished to go to the West Bank and who contacted the then-existing registration centers as within the limit of the numbers permitted daily.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the director added that facts produced by practical experience motivated the officials to close the registration centers. He pointed out that there was no problem in 1986 and at the beginning of this summer and that traffic was normal and free of complications.

He asserted that the problem surfaced only in the past few days because the number of passengers exceeded the annual average due to the expatriates' circumstances, to the school holiday, and to annual leave. This results in increased transit traffic and in further hardship for the brother passengers.

Al-Majali also said that the fact that this problem persisted for several days caused the number of delayed passenger to increase and required several days to absorb the unexpected increase in the number of people planning to visit, especially since most brother expatriates insist, due to special circumstances, on visiting during this critical period.

He noted that the number of passengers scheduled to leave via Prince Muhammad Bridge amounts to 1,500 persons daily on ordinary days and to 750 persons on Fridays whereas the daily number permitted through King Husayn Bridge is 2,500 people daily, with the number dropping to 1,250 persons on Fridays.

Al-Majali added: We had hoped that the crisis would end and that there would be no need to return to the advance registration and reservation centers. From past experience, we find that these centers create some hardship for the brother citizens. He pointed out that advance reservation depends on the traffic volume. If the passenger volume exceeds the scheduled daily number, then this instrument has to be employed.

Concluding his statement, al-Majali urged the citizens to cooperate with the authorities concerned, stressing that abolition or resumption of the reservation centers is dictated by the citizens' interest and by the authorities' wish to facilitate the citizen's movement between the two banks.

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JORDAN EXPATRIATES CONFERENCE, LABOR STATISTICS

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 87 pp 14-15

[Report by Ahmad Shakir, Ahmad al-Hasan, and Tawfiq al-'Abid: "Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference Continues Its Work"]

[Excerpts] Amman--The Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference continued its work yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labor and Social Development Khalid al-Hajj Hasan.

The morning session began with a review by Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir of the economic working paper which discusses the economic situation in Jordan.

Dr al-Mu'ashshir said that the meeting is taking place in light of a number of facts and circumstances, most significant of which is the deepening and growing sense of common responsibility toward building, investment, and development as well as the continuing regional and global economic recession problems and challenges that have adversely affected the growth rate and the labor market.

The current economic cycle, he said, is nearing its end. It will be followed by a stage that will herald economic revival and progress, the signs of which have begun to appear on the horizon. This is thanks to the country's ability to adapt to changes, consolidate gains and accomplishments, and prepare its economic and social institutions for a new leap forward in which the efforts of both its resident and its expatriate sons are joined together.

The meeting also coincides with the launching of the Third 5-year plan which aims at giving impetus to economic and social development by mobilizing the available domestic and external resources and savings.

He said that Jordan's economic policy is based on supporting and consolidating the role of the private sector in contributing to economic and social developing, while regarding individual initiative as one of the most important mainstays of the Jordanian economy.

The conference is also taking place as the government is adhering to its firm and established policies of ensuring safety and protection for capital

invested in Jordan, be it Jordanian, Arab, or foreign, and providing such capital with tax and investment incentives as well as the basic services necessary for its success. In addition, Jordan is pursuing an economic and social development program in the occupied territories as the ideal means for strengthening the steadfastness of our kinsfolk and fulfilling its national commitments with the aim of thwarting the Zionist plans aimed at evicting them and tightening control on the occupied territories and their resources.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that the economic recession in the area had negative effects on economic development in Jordan, but the government is proceeding with containing those effects and curbing their consequences through finding solutions for those problems on a sector and individual basis as well as by providing new investment opportunities and encouraging sincere individual initiatives.

Five-year Development Plan

He said that the 1986-90 five-year development plan includes a number of economic objectives the most important of which are:

- To achieve a firm and constant growth rate of 5 percent annually based on fixed prices.
- To seek to reduce unemployment through new investments and through alternative policies in the field of employment.
- To expand social security both horizontally and vertically so as to include new types of security and new categories of workers, including those employed abroad.
- To plan education with the aim of reconciling the market's demand for labor with the various labor skills offered.
- To expand the vocational training horizontally and vertically with the aim of training and retraining workers and jobseekers.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that this requires investments to the tune of 3.2 million dinars, to which the private sector will contribute 44 percent.

He then reviewed the basic economic objectives for which the expatriate conferences are held. These include:

- Acquainting the expatriates with economic conditions in their motherland.
- Acquainting the Jordanian expatriates with the various investment opportunities available and the way to exploit their savings in a manner that would ensure for them income and safeguards as well as contribute to Jordan's development efforts.
- Studying the potential of creating new job opportunities for the Jordanian workforce, especially university and academy graduates.

He then reviewed the resolutions and recommendations of previous conferences which have been implemented, especially those pertaining to economic objectives. He pointed out that the government has provided everything that would encourage the expatriates to participate in developing this country. This includes widening the scope of initiatives and investment services through the following:

- Intensifying contacts with countries playing host to the expatriates, especially the Gulf countries, with the aim of strengthening fraternal ties and widening the fields of economic integration between those countries and Jordan.
- Expanding the base of customs tariff and tax exemptions by enacting Law No 11 of 1987 to encourage investments, setting up a system for facilitating investments by citizens of Arab countries, drafting a bill on Jordanian industry, updating and amending company laws, and controlling insurance transactions, commercial brand names, and the import-export system.
- Providing the necessary and basic services for investment projects through expanding the establishment of industrial towns and free zones and providing energy at reasonable prices.
- Leasing state lands for agricultural purposes for a nominal rent.
- Convening Jordanian investment seminars with the aim of acquainting Arab and foreign investors with Jordanian economic activities, available investment opportunities, and the privileges, facilities, and services provided for this purpose similar to what was done at the Jordanian investment fair which was held in sisterly Kuwait and on Jordan day at the Federation of British Industries in London.
- Concluding several agreements and trade protocols with the sisterly Arab countries and friendly countries with the aim of strengthening and encouraging Jordanian exports.
- Setting up trade centers and concluding deals for trade exchange on equal basis with the aim of strengthening Jordanian exports and securing their marketing or opening foreign markets for such exports.
- Participating in international industrial and trade exhibitions with the aim of advertising and promoting Jordanian products abroad. Jordan has participated in Damascus and Baghdad international exhibitions and set up specialized exhibitions in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Tunisia, and Cairo.

Yesterday afternoon the participants held a second session under the chairmanship of Minister of Labor and Social Development Engineer Khalid al-Haj Hasan, the conference chairman, during which they discussed a working paper on the state of affairs and policies of the labor force in Jordan.

Dr Salih al-Khasawinah, Labor Ministry undersecretary and the conference secretary general, submitted the working paper in question. He said:

The situation of the labor market is the product of the surrounding economic, social, and political conditions and realities. This situation applies to Jordan just as it applies to other countries. In this regard Jordan since the early eighties has been affected by the global economic recession in general and the drop in oil revenues in particular...which had adverse effects on the Jordanian economic situation in general and the situation in the job market in particular. These factors and developments combined have led to the emergence of a number of problems or phenomena and distinguishing and peculiar characteristics in the Jordanian job market. Some of these phenomena are perhaps of a unique kind having a regenerating and developing dynamism, the like of which is not found in other Third World countries. The most significant of these phenomena and characteristics can be summed up as follows:

Rise in Population Growth Rate

Al-Khasaawinah said that estimates indicate that the growth rate is 3.9 percent annually, of which 3.4 percent is the result of natural growth and 0.5 percent is a result of net population immigration, particularly of waves of forced immigration [from the occupied territories]. The estimates also indicate that the population in Jordan or those carrying Jordanian citizenship in 1986 reached about 4.5 million people, who are distributed as follows: 2.8 million in the East Bank of Jordan, 900,000 in the West Bank, and 800,000 abroad, particularly in the Arab Gulf states. This brings the total to 4.5 million.

Estimates indicate that the rate of economic participation by the Jordanian population of the East Bank in the labor force reaches only about 19.4 percent and that the total rate of this population, including imported labor, is estimated at 23 percent. It is to be noted that the size of the Jordanian labor force in 1986 is estimated at 535,400 workers, of which 492,300 are actually working and the rest are unemployed. This is in addition to imported labor, which exceeds 100,000 workers.

The reasons for the low economic participation are attributed to several factors and changes, most significant of which are:

- The rise in the ratio of young people (under 15 years) in the population to more than 50 percent.
- The rise in the number of those enrolled in various educational institutions to 900,000; some 32 percent of the population attend schools.
- The low rate of participation by Jordanian women in the workforce compared with other countries, despite the increase in this participation in the recent decades (12.5 percent).

These characteristics go beyond Jordan's geographic borders. They extend to the Arab Gulf region and even go as far as several countries in America and Europe and various parts of the world. These are some of the unique phenomena that recently emerged in the Jordanian labor market. The number of Jordanian

workers abroad is estimated at 325,000 to 350,000 workers, who represent more than 50 percent of the local labor market and about 40 percent of the total Jordanian workforce in both the local and the foreign labor markets. The amount of imported labor is estimated at 100,000 to 150,000 workers who constitute about 25 percent of the local labor market. I do not think that any other country in the world has anything similar to what Jordan has in this field.

He added that because of the world economic recession, the drop in oil prices beginning this decade, and consequently the drop in oil revenues, had great adverse effects on the economies of the Arab oil-exporting countries, the recipients of the labor. These adverse effects have been made worse by the continuing Iraq-Iran war. Like the other countries in the area, Jordan has been affected by those developments and has received a substantial share of them. This has in particular affected remittances of Jordanians working abroad and Arab aid to Jordan. This in turn has led to slowing the rate of investments and considerable reduction in the rate of increase of available job opportunities. All this had clearly affected the Jordanian labor market and led to the emergence of the following phenomena:

- Slow growth rate of local demand for labor and the deepening of imbalance in the labor market that have begun to appear in the second half of the seventies, leading to the emergence of clear signs of unemployment among the professional class evident in the presence of a surplus in certain professions and specializations and a shortage in others. Perhaps what is most interesting here is the fact that the surplus was among highly qualified people, including doctors and engineers, and a shortage among skilled workers. Therefore, in light of present economic conditions it is not the Jordanian economy that is unable to provide job opportunities to absorb those looking for work inasmuch as it is the inability of those looking for work to adapt to and meet the needs and requirements of the labor market. Therefore this is considered more a social and behavioral problem concerning the value and concept of work among both individuals and families than it is an economic problem relating to a shortage of local work opportunities. On the other hand, it underscores the lack of coordination and harmony between the educational system and its products and the requirements of development plans.

- Drop of growth rate in foreign demand for labor and in rate of immigration Abroad.

We should point here to the fact that estimates of unemployment differ in volume and rates in accordance with the difference in the definitions and principles adopted in the estimate. Sources of the Ministry of Labor estimate the number of those looking for work at approximately 40,000, who constitute 8 percent of the local Jordanian workforce. It is worth noting that according to employment statistics, 75 percent of these are graduates of secondary schools and colleges.

- The emergence of the phenomenon of what is known as return of immigrant workers, which is attributed to the drop of oil prices and oil revenues in the Gulf states, particularly since those countries have completed their infrastructure projects.

These factors have coincided with one another and, at the same time, the Jordanian education system has continued with its normal increase in output. In the meantime this was coupled with a large increase in the output of the educational system in the host countries and the beginning of what is known as nationalizing jobs and work opportunities in those countries in the hope of filling jobs with citizens of those countries.

Ministry of Labor estimates indicate that the number of returning workers in 1986 was up to 3,000 workers, which is below the rate expected in the 1986-90 five-year plan, which was estimated at 5,000 persons annually.

- Imported labor continues to flow into Jordan job market. The present number of imported workers is estimated at more than 100,000.

The majority of imported workers are concentrated in services, construction, and agricultural jobs at the rate of 43.5 percent, 18.6 percent, and 14.8 percent, respectively.

Dr al-Khasawinah said that the flow of foreign workers into Jordan is continuing because of the incompatibility between the nature of professions and skills offered and market demands. It would have been impossible to ensure continuity of production and development without seeking the help of imported labor. In other words, the policies of work and employment have attached and still attach special importance to the objectives of continuity of production and maintaining production and productivity, seeking to continually increasing their rate, and enhancing the competitiveness of Jordanian products and producers locally and externally, this giving priority to this over everything else. This is in addition to the objective of creating more work and employment opportunities. The failure to import foreign workers would have resulted in hindering production, increasing its costs, and creating a drop in the rate of economic growth.

With regard to future expectations, estimates of the current development plan show that the total supply of labor during the plan years will be in the range of 267,400 workers while the expected total additional demand will be about 201,000 job opportunities.

Thus at the end of the plan the Jordanian job market will face a surplus of 66,400 workers representing 9.1 percent of the Jordanian workforce then. The surplus will occur in most of the higher educational levels and the shortage in the lower educational level, which is below the general secondary level.

Measure of Organizing Labor Market

In view of the aforementioned situation in the job market and future expectations as well as in order to reduce unemployment, it was necessary to take certain measures to deal with this situation and organize the job market, particularly with regard to imported workers. The law in this regard has been amended several times. The most important objectives which such measures aimed at were as follows:

- To insure that the importation of foreign workers is restricted to the actual need for them and to those skills that are unavailable in Jordan.
- The estimation of such needs is the prerogative of the Ministry of Labor and dependent upon its prior approval.
- Priority in bringing in imported workers should be first for Arab workers and then for foreign workers, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law.
- No imported worker may work in a profession other than that for which he has a permit or change his place of work or guarantor before obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Labor and obtaining a discharge from his previous employer.

The legislator did not stop at this, but has also imposed specific fines and penalties for violating these conditions, which include payment of fines by the employer and deportation of the offending worker.

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HOUSES DISTRIBUTED TO ARMED FORCES OFFICERS

Amman AL-AQSA in Arabic Jul 87 p 21

[Article: "General Commander Patronizes Ceremony for Distribution of Housing in Second Site to Armed Forces Officers"]

[Text] A ceremony was held under the auspices of Staff Marshall Zayd ibn Shakir, the armed forces general commander, at the General Command NCO Club to distribute housing in the second site of the third phase of the armed forces officer's housing project.

The number of houses distributed amounted to 179 houses out of a possible total of 255 houses. Seventy-six houses in the first site of this phase were distributed last year to those deserving them on the basis of lots.

It is to be noted that each house has an area of 190 square meters and that it is built on a lot of nearly 400 square meters and is designed in a comfortable architectural style, with architectural supervision carried out by the Royal Engineering Corps.

The distribution of this phase's housing comes as part of the Armed Forces General Command's plan to provide comfortable housing to each of its members. This is why it provided the opportunity to subscribers to the Officers Housing Fund to take advantage of the housing projects carried out by the Civilian Housing Establishment. The number of officers taking advantage of the Abu Nusayr project and other projects has exceeded 600.

The distribution ceremony was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu-Talib, the chief of staff, by the armed forces inspector general, by a number of the chief of staff's aides, and by a number of the armed forces' high-ranking officers.

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COST OF LIVING LOWEST IN REGION

44040448 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 7 Aug 87 p 44

[Text] The most glaring change marking the economic situation in Lebanon is that a combination of the Lebanese pound's plummeting exchange rate and the lucrative smuggling operations have resulted in Lebanese commodity prices being the lowest in the region and, possibly, in the world. Even imports are cheaper in Lebanon than their counterparts in other countries in the region, including some that charge no more than 5 percent in customs duties. In fact some imported goods are sold in Lebanon at prices less than those in the country of origin which only naturally raises questions about origin, and quality.

For example, a packet of butter sells in Beirut at 70 Lebanese pounds, the same brand being sold in Kuwait and several Gulf countries at 202 pounds. A popular brand of American cigarettes costs 70 pounds a pack in Lebanon compared to 130 pounds in the Gulf countries. A brocade silk gown selling at 8,000 pounds in Lebanon costs 50,000 pounds in Saudi Arabia.

Bread which costs 22 pounds a kilogram in Beirut is priced at 35 pounds in the Gulf states, while a kilogram of spring peas which can be bought in Beirut markets for 125 pounds is sold in neighboring markets at 145 pounds. Generally speaking prices of vegetables in Lebanon and the other Arab countries are comparable whereas the price of fruit may be as much 40 percent cheaper in Lebanon than in neighboring country markets.

Cost of services in Lebanon is ludicrously low. Taxi fares from one street to another in Lebanon range from 50 to 100 pounds, whereas they are no less than 1000 pounds in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, Jordan or Iraq. Although increased on three different occasions, electricity costs do not exceed half the cost in the other countries of the region.

Air fares, although repeatedly increased, are 25 percent cheaper in Beirut airport than those charged by Arab and international airlines. The cost of staying at a Lebanese hotel is a dozen times lower than the rates charged by hotels in other Arab countries. A meal at a high class Lebanese restaurant is 30 percent cheaper than that of a comparable meal in a similar class hotel in any Arab or non-Arab country.

One of the first things noticed by Lebanese visiting Arab or western capitals is that the cost of living in Lebanon is by far the lowest. Even housing has become extremely inexpensive. Rent for a good apartment in East or West Beirut is no more than \$200 a month or the equivalent of rent for a substandard apartment in Kuwait. Landlords are asking such rents for empty apartments on the condition that no lease agreement be signed, in other words, in order not to be bound by the Rent Law which does not allow landlords to increase rents in proportion to inflation, an issue which brought about a serious housing crisis in Beirut.

Numerous comparisons can be drawn, all indicating the fabulously low level of prices in Lebanon, principally due to the low exchange rate of the Lebanese pound and consequently the very low purchasing power of the Lebanese citizen who is practically the sole customer of the Lebanese services sector, and is the second most important customer, after the Arab client, for Lebanon's production sectors.

There are, however, other reasons why the cost of goods and services is so low. They include recent procurement by importers of large stocks of various varieties of most of the goods on sale. Some of these are goods now in danger of being spoiled because their date of expiration has passed. Other goods are stockpiled uselessly in the warehouses of Gulf countries, especially electrical equipment which was sold to Lebanese merchants at ridiculously low prices. Some goods were stockpiled in merchants' warehouses in Lebanon because consumers were averse to purchasing them in the past, or in the "good old days" when the Lebanese consumer opted only for the very finest of world production.

Now that consumers are only able to obtain third and fourth rate goods, the merchants have opened up their warehouses and dumped old stocks, some of which date back to 1974, on the market. There is another factor, bringing down prices of goods in Lebanon, that should not be overlooked. Some merchants and manufacturers have taken up reproducing brand name products. Recently there has been a surge in pirating activity which has included detergents, soap, olive oil and certain pharmaceuticals, not to mention the production of "brand name" clothing, perfumes and footwear. Counterfeit activity also includes the most popular commodity of all in Lebanon, i.e. the US dollar, an activity which Interpol, with the assistance of Lebanon's security authorities, is trying to curb.

If things continue this way, Lebanon could very soon be transformed into the largest arena of counterfeit activity in the world, catching up with the traditional areas still ahead of it: Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Despite the heavy flow of spurious goods, the principal factor keeping prices down is the declining cost of labor in manufacturing, as a result of declining exchange rates. In real terms, manpower wages are lower than they were in 1965. Cost of services is practically negligible compared to that in neighboring countries. These two factors have combined to bring about a cost of living level that might well be considered incompatible with the requirements of contemporary living and possibly degrading to the Lebanese and their dignity. Minimum wage does not exceed \$25.00 at current exchange

rates and, at best, is no more than \$80.00 in terms of actual purchasing power of the Lebanese pound, according to some studies.

There are several indicators that wages are likely to increase sharply. These include, primarily, the demand by the General Labor Union for quaterly rather than semi-annual wage and salary increments. Even more important is the fact that an important segment of employers and workers is moving toward requiring that wages and salaries be stabilized in relation to the US dollar, rather than the local currency. Some time ago a number of establishments began paying a minimum wage of \$150.00 to their employees and workers under a "gentleman's agreement" whereby wages would not be increased if estimated in terms of dollars.

The factor pressuring such establishments is the recent, constant attrition of employees and workers due to migration of professionals and technical manpower to the Gulf and European countries, the United States, Brazil, Australia and Africa. Middle East Airline sources state that the rate of migration has now reached about 5,000 persons a month. Establishments affected recognize that replenishment of their manpower in the short term is either impossible or extremely costly, a condition that could spread to all sectors in the very near future. At present demand for professional know how and trained manpower far exceeds supply. Indeed it can be said that supply is limited to the newly emerging, untrained manpower generations the capacities of which are limited, as far as employers are concerned, especially in the currently difficult market circumstances.

Hence, some observers expect the Lebanese marketplace to see a general increase in the price of goods in dollar terms, because of burgeoning manpower wages. This means that opportunities for cheap labor are gradually shrinking under the dynamycs of supply and demand.

13291/12951

HAMAH WATER CUTOFF SPARKS DEBATE, CONTROVERSY

Damascus AL-IHAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Bishar al-Hijli: "The Full Story Behind the Contamination of Drinking Water in Hamah"]

[Text] On Tuesday morning, 16 June 1987, the residents of Hamah awakened to find the drinking water in their faucets muddy and red in color, thus causing panic among the city's population and giving rise to rumors that the Hamah water was contaminated. To make things worse, the city was without water for 3 days and the people were surprised by water trucks roaming the streets and neighborhoods distributing water to replace the tap water.

Rumors abounded about the incident, and citizens' complaints grew so that the entire province set out to mobilize all its administrative, governmental, and technical agencies to remedy the situation.

So, what is the story behind the contaminated drinking water in Hamah? What caused it, and what were its implications?

To answer these questions, AL-IHAWRAH went into the field to investigate the problem and learned the whole story. The details are as follows:

The Beginning of the Problem

The director general of the water authority in Hamah received a registered message from the chief of al-Qusayr water plant at 5 am on 16 June 1987 informing him that the water was so muddy that it had to be diverted to the purification plant, thus confirming that the Hamah water was unfit to drink because of the high degree of turbidity and the inability of the main reservoirs at al-Qusayr purification plant to purify and clean the water that was flowing into them in amounts that far exceeded their handling capacity.

The reason, as confirmed by provincial sources, was due to heavy floods in the al-Hirmil area where the purification plant is located. These floods were heavier than expected and exceeded all safety considerations at the plant, carrying huge amounts of silt and mud to the purification reservoirs, thus putting the plant out of operation and causing a fresh water cut-off in the

city of Hamah to prevent muddy water of questionable safety for human consumption from getting to the residents and causing possible complications.

Hence, the flood water in the plant's filters was subjected to the necessary laboratory tests to determine its safety and water was completely cut off from the city for 3 consecutive days. When the water was restored, it was very muddy and began to clear gradually as a result of great efforts made by official parties in the province of Hamah until it was totally safe to drink, both bacterially and chemically.

The Hamah water is expected very soon to regain the degree of purity to which the residents have been accustomed for many years. At the popular level in the city of Hamah, the sudden and long cutoff created a real crisis in the province, reflected in the many rumors about the reason for the cutoff and that it would be many months before the water supply could be restored. This was coupled with a state of chaos created by people's attempts to look for other sources of drinking water, thus causing panic among others who were afraid that they would be out of water for a long time or that their water was contaminated. Some residents in looking for alternate sources of water used the al-'Asi River water which is not free of pollution and harmful health hazards at a time when citizens should have been warned against using such water, this was not to be!

Between al-Qusayr Plant and the City

Talk about the water crisis in Hamah leads us to talk about the network that supplies this city with drinking water in an attempt to shed light on the water pipelines, the length of the network and the source of the problem. So what about the water network?

Hamah used to get its water supply from the Hamah refineries, the "al-'Asi Depression Plant," which used to pump water to the entire city up until 1977, when the project to supply Hamah with water from the al-'Asi source in the al-Hirmil area located along the Syrian-Lebanese borders was set up, and a water purification station in al-Qusayr region and 3 reservoirs (with a capacity of 120,000 cubic meters per day) were constructed. A fourth reservoir was supposed to be built as well.

It is commonly known that the Hamah water is pure, palatable, and naturally clean. The purification plant in al-Qusayr was set up to increase the reserve and attain a high degree of safety. Hence, 96 km of water pipes were laid in al-Rahah region to supply from 40 to 46 communities, in addition to al-Wa'r area in Hims and al-Salamiya in Hamah. Water reaches Hamah at a natural temperature of 15 degrees Celcius in most cases and is pure and drinkable, but nevertheless it is subjected to daily laboratory tests to ensure its safety.

When al-Qusayr plant was put into operation, the Hamah plant was shut down and forgotten until the incident occurred.

How Was the Problem Handled?

The first step was taken by the appropriate authorities was to cut off the muddy water from the city and to try to find an alternate source to meet the residents' needs and remedy the existing problem.

Therefore, at the directions of his excellency the governor of Hamah, everyone was mobilized to carry water to the city's areas and neighborhoods, with the help of water trucks belonging to a number of official agencies in the province that transported drinking water from surrounding wells and reservoirs.

Moreover, the city's old stand-by purification plants, which used to be utilized for drinking water before the al-Qusayr plant was constructed, were washed and disinfected, and water was stored in the reservoirs for 10 hours, during which time it was treated with chlorine. The water was then tested and judged safe to drink, whereupon it was mixed with the water originating from the central muddy canal and, on Thursday evening, 19 June 1987, it was fed into the city's network for about 10 hours. Meanwhile, the al-Qusayr purification plants were put into operation at a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters per hour, whereupon water coming from the irrigation canal was cut off at the request of the water laboratory staff. All the water trucks of the technical and agricultural services department, the city council, the fire department, civil defense, and the public sector were put into operation to supply drinking water from water sources around the city.

The governor gave instructions to offer all necessary capabilities to clean up the silt in the sedimentation and filtration reservoirs and the distribution canal deposited by the floods in the al-'Asi River course before the location of the source in Lebanese territory. Laboratory tests were conducted daily by the water organization staff; these tests showed that the water was chemically and bacterially safe to drink, with a sedimentation rate within the permissible level. Laboratory tests conducted and certified by the Hamah Water Authorities laboratories indicate that the sedimentation rate rose from 0.75 mg to 3.75 mg per liter during the incident, noting that the maximum permissible level in the absence of a better alternative is 25 units, based on drinking water standards Number 45 set by the Arab Syrian Bureau of Standards, keeping in mind that the permissible level under ordinary circumstances is only 5 units, well within the natural limits and not posing any problems whatsoever. A study of the said test results indicated a slight rise in the nitrate content from 1 mg to 3 mg per liter, still within normal limits. Ammonia and nitrite solutions that indicate pollution were absent from the city's water and a slight rise in their level, if it existed, is permissible provided that the water is bacterially safe. This was substantiated by the bacterial tests that accompanied the chemical tests. A review of tests conducted on samples taken from various areas of the city on 20 June 1987 clearly show that the drinking water is bacterially safe, as was the case before and after the incident.

Miscellaneous Accounts

Eng Majid 'Abd-al-Razzaq, technical director at the Hamah City Council, talked about an comprehensive meeting that included city officials to deal with the water pollution problem. This meeting resulted in a number of immediate executive measures to counteract the problem of red muddy water coming out of the city's faucets. When the water was cut off, water trucks belonging to various agencies were used to transport water from fresh water wells in the city and suburbs to most of the city's districts and neighborhoods. He pointed out that the Hamah Water Authority was derelict in failing to notice the problem before it happened and in failing to take the necessary precautions. He added, however, that a heavy flood swept the filtration reservoir and caused the disaster that lasted for a period of time.

Mr Munir Khuri, a city council employee, said: "So far, we have not been drinking the real water to which we have grown accustomed. The people are wondering whether the water is fresh and fit to drink or whether it is contaminated. I believe this is their right." He added: "The water pressure is still low but we do not know why, since we do not know if the water is being pumped at full capacity or if the water level has dropped. All these are legitimate questions in the face of the hardships the residents are experiencing because of the fresh water cutoff."

Director General of Water Supply

Mr 'Adnan al-Bushi, director general of fresh water and sewage in Hamah, categorically denied the existence of pollution in fresh water, saying: "There is no contaminated water in Hamah, and we would never send contaminated water to the city. Water being pumped is within general world standards and sedimentation is within the permissible level and does not go beyond 3 degrees. Right now the sedimentation rate ranges from 1.5 to 2 degrees.

"As an extra precaution, water is being continually purified and subjected to daily testing. As for the water cutoff, it lasted from 16 to 24 hours."

[Question] If we assume that what happened was not contamination, how do you explain matters?

[Answer] I insist that there is no contamination. It was a matter of a sudden horrendous flood gushing for 24 hours and sweeping away anything that was in its way. The guilty party in this case was nature, pure and simple.

As for the measures taken, the filtration plant was shut down for a while during which the stand-by reservoirs were used to feed the city, but the supply was used up whereupon we turned to water trucks as an alternate source.

I say that the flood surpassed the plant's designed capacity, thus affecting the filtration reservoirs. The province has experienced many floods in the past which we were able to handle, but they were not as heavy or as lasting as this one. Nevertheless, we did not distribute a single drop of untested water. As for the amount and level of water, the filtration plant has a 5,000

cubic meter/hour capacity in normal conditions, but the turbidity caused it to operate way below this level. As for allegations of sickness due to contaminated water, they are not credible because we all have been drinking the water without getting sick. Sickness may have been caused by the al-'Asi River water that was used when the water was cut off, not by water pumped to the homes because the latter was subjected to laboratory tests before distribution.

With regard to the water's physical state, the color was a little murky and the taste was affected by the increased level of chlorine. Regarding the fresh water supply and reserve, Mr al-Bushi said:

"We have stand-by reservoirs with a 55,000 cubic meter capacity which are enough to satisfy consumption for 20 hours or over while the city's needs amount to 70,000 a day. I do not think that the reserve is low under normal conditions, for it is an ideal rate compared to other provinces."

A Warning Call

In pursuit of this matter, we met with Mr Kan'an Najjar, director of water safety at the al-'Asi Basin Irrigation Administration, who had something to say about it: "We were not asked to do anything about the problem of contamination, even though we are the party most closely in touch with this matter. We found it strange that we were excluded from the investigation and inspection process. However, when we found that the residents were turning to the contaminated water of the al-'Asi River, we sent a registered message to the governor of Hamah in order to warn the citizens through the media not to use the al-'Asi water because it is highly contaminated and unsafe for drinking or household use. The warning that was sent directly to the governor cautioned against using public water in the Hims-Hamah irrigation network for drinking, even after treatment. We received promises from the governor to issue instructions to this effect."

About the measures taken, he said: "Measures taken by the appropriate authorities in the province were up to the task. The crisis came to light on Wednesday morning, 17 June 1987, and the water was cut off for 3 days, during which the task force made commendable efforts to put the plant, whose water supply had to be treated, back into operation. I would like to point out here that the preliminary measures were adopted following a meeting with the governor which called for a temporary cutoff of the water supply to Hims and from Hims to Hamah. This matter is still under study because Hims gets 15 percent of the pumping capacity."

Asked whether the water consumed by the Hamah province during and following the crisis was contaminated, the director of water safety at the al-'Asi basin said: "We were not asked to handle this problem. Had we been asked to do so, we would have supervised the effort as a whole and would have expressed an opinion. However, we were not tasked, and this leaves a number of questions unanswered. This is the content of the registered message sent to the governor of Hamah under No 547/1, dated 18 June 1987, the day the crisis came to a head:

"His Excellency the Governor of Hamah: Please alert the residents of Hamah via the media or any other means you deem appropriate not to use the al-'Asi water for drinking or household use because this water is contaminated and chemically and bacterially unsafe.' The question going through our minds is whether this warning was heeded!"

With the Mayor of Hamah

Mr Radwan Razqani, Mayor of Hamah, said:

"I do not think that the water is contaminated in the exact sense of the word because the water supply is subjected to bacterial testing as well as chemical testing on a continual basis. There are normal levels, and tests have shown that the water consumed in Hamah was safe, that the sedimentation rate was not harmful, and that the water is safe to drink and can be used for human consumption.

"This was the first time that water has been cut off from the entire town. As soon as the crisis occurred, we mobilized the various agencies and dispatched water trucks to residential areas, where fire trucks were distributed to all state offices and institutions, the bakeries and trucks belonging to the Agricultural and Agrarian Reform Administration were sent to 5 districts, and those belonging to the Services Administration were assigned to al-Hadir region as a whole. We got water from wells belonging to SADCOP, the textile factory, and the the Agricultural Research Center. The water used was safe to drink and was subjected to periodic testing. Our job as a municipality was to organize the distribution of water to the city, and the executive office held a meeting during which it studied the situation. It came out with recommendations to form a committee comprised of the various responsible parties to study the problem and look for another dependable source of water in order to avert a crisis similar to the one which the city experienced in the middle of last month."

[Question] At whom should the accusing finger be pointed: at fate or at the relevant authorities?

[Answer] It seems that this was an unexpected situation, and the facility is not designed to handle incidents arising from compelling circumstances. Even though we have a reserve, it was not enough in the face of the last flood which was unusual in its intensity and duration. The flood water flooded the ground and covered it with silt. It cannot be said that a certain side was derelict in the general sense of the word. It would have been better if measures and precautions had been taken.

"We are in the process of studying this phenomenon, and the incident has alerted us to the need to make contingency plans. Technical and specialized expertise will be called upon soon to assist in this matter. The study process will also include monitoring the network and any shortcoming or contamination."

He pointed out that "As a municipality, we have no jurisdiction over the water authority and our role is secondary. What we want is water fit to drink and nothing more."

With The Relevant Executive Office Member

Eng Muhammad Shuhud, member of the executive office for services, said:

"We were surprised by this great fuss made over this matter because we have been, up to now, drinking this water and have not noticed the alleged contamination. People in Hamah are using this water and we have not heard of any incidents or sicknesses, so where is the contamination? And where are its effects? Does it make sense that we would drink contaminated water or would accept contaminated water in our city?

"I have been officially charged with monitoring the situation from the beginning, and we have worked around the clock to get to where we are now. The task force was working non-stop, and we submitted daily reports to the governor who was monitoring the situation around the clock. We were finally able to overcome the crisis, and the amount of water flowing to the distribution canal was increased to 5,000 cubic meters per hour, which is equal to the plant's designed capacity.

An Expert Health Opinion

As we have already pointed out, the water incident in the city of Hamah was accompanied by various rumors and allegations, some related to health hazards created by the consumption of contaminated water, among children in particular. Consequently, and in an attempt to examine the facts, we sought the help of expert medical opinions to determine the number of illnesses caused by contaminated water, if indeed the water was contaminated.

In this regard, Dr Muhammad al-Shami, a scholastic health specialist in the province, pointed to the absence of medical cases among children, gastric and skin diseases in particular. He said:

"The medical cases we faced during and following this incident were within the normal range, and we did not record any increase over the general rate during the summer, thus confirming the absence of contamination."

Dr 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ud, executive office member in charge of health, said: "There is nothing to indicate the presence of contamination in the drinking water. The health board at the province has determined this, and we monitored the situation through the firefighters union, the laboratories, and the department of health in the province. All parties have been asked to submit reports on this matter on an ongoing basis, and we have not received anything pointing to alleged contamination."

A review of the Hamah National Hospital records showed 50 medical cases during and following the incident, compared to 41 cases during the same period last year, from 1-5 July 1986. An increase of 9 cases does not indicate a state of water contamination and an 18 percent ratio is normal compared to past years

in view of the increased number of patients checking into the hospital and the population growth. Typhoid fever cases have maintained their normal level even though some cases may have been referred to private clinics. Skin diseases have remained within limits and any increase may have been due to the use of the al-'Asi water for bathing. This of course contradicts medical reports that have denied the existence of contaminated drinking water by providing evidence of the absence of widespread cases of illness. And this sounds the warning bell. What will happen next?

With His Excellency the Governor

At the end of our tour in the province of Hamah, during which we learned about the medical efforts made by the relevant authorities in the province to purify the water in record time compared to the amount of silt deposited by the flood, we met with Mr As'ad Mustafa, governor of Hamah, who was intent on following the matter to the end. He said:

"What happened is that unusually heavy floods came from the al-Hirmil region in the middle of last month, bringing with them over 6 million cubic meters of water. These torrents flooded the al-Qusayr filtration plant, carrying with them to the al-'Asi River large amounts of silt which left a very high level of sedimentation and put the plant out of commission, thus leaving Hamah without water for several days. Things began returning to normal as the sedimentation rate dropped and the plant regained its filtration capacity. During this stoppage, water was supplied from the stand-by reservoirs using water trucks. We made a field visit to the plant and the task force in charge of the province's water supply, comprised of an executive office member and the director of the water authority. We worked full time, and we sought the help of all the al-'Asi Reservoir officials and the al-'Asi Water Safety Department and technical services to:

1-- Drain the three reservoirs and clean up the large amounts of silt deposited in the filtration reservoirs.

2-- Repair the purification reservoirs and study the level of sand, adding the necessary amounts.

3-- Perform maintenance on drainage outlets and secure the necessary spare parts for some machinery from the local market. Parts not available on the local market have been ordered through the Ministry of Economy, and the minister has agreed to open credits in the amount of 14,000 Syrian pounds to import some necessary spare parts that were reserved for the filtration plant over a year and a half ago, awaiting the opening of credits.

Moreover, coordination is under way with the governor of Hims and the Electric Power Administration to organize major electric outages at the plant caused by dust build-up from the fertilizer plants along the tension line that feeds the filtration plant in Hims Province.

4-- The water network in the city of Hamah has been fully purged, and water in the old Hamah filtration plant was tested and determined unsafe, so we have to limit ourselves to water coming from the new plant.

"Now, water in Hamah is safe to drink and the sedimentation rate is down to 2. The city is not receiving the full amount of water it needs for several reasons, including the fact that Hims Province has been leasing 15,000 cubic meters from the Hamah line since 1983 under a one-year agreement that was supposed to end upon completing the 'Ayn al-Tannur project in Hims. Full water service has not been restored to Hamah yet, and Hims is still leasing the same amount.

"It took 3 days to restore the water pressure to normal strength, due to the fact that water was being pumped to Hims, al-Rustun, al-Salamiyah, and Hamah simultaneously and all these localities drink from the Hamah line.

"Hims Province has been asked to organize the water cutoff process between Hims and Hamah for 12 hours a day for only 3 days, alternating between the two locations, so that we will not be forced to overload the reservoirs by filling them with 5,100 cubic meters an hour, which is above their 5,000 capacity. Such overloading impedes the filtration process. Following contacts with the relevant authorities, it was agreed to hold a meeting at the office of the minister of housing in Damascus to be attended by the governors of Hims and Hamah, water officials, and province technicians to adopt the necessary measures and coordinate a solution to the problem."

[Question] How do you explain the big fuss made over the contamination of water in Hamah?

[Answer] Rumors about contaminated water in Hamah are completely false because the water has not changed, but has been muddied by the flood. It is returning to normal in a satisfactory fashion and will take only 2 to 3 days to restore it to its normal state now that the stand-by reservoirs have been filled. Province, environmental protection, Hamah Water Authority, and all other officials are aware of this, and anyone making claims to the contrary can test samples in any laboratory they choose.

[Question] How can this situation be overcome in the future, and what precautionary and procedural measures can be adopted in this regard?

[Answer] The filtration plant was supposed to have 4 reservoirs with a 160,000 cubic meter/day capacity. Three reservoirs with a 120,000 cubic meter/day capacity were completed in 1977, and a week ago the Ministry of Housing issued direct orders to Military Housing, Hims Branch, to complete the fourth one. On the other hand, the Hamah water project consists of two lines from al-Hirmil to Hamah, of which one has been completed and the ground has been prepared for the other one. As for the first one, it does not cover the needs of Hamah, al-Salamiyah and al-Rastan, and it is used by Hims and a number of villages among the two provinces. Due to the population growth, a radical solution to this problem requires the following:

1-- Prompt completion of the fourth reservoir of al-Qusayr filtration plant.

2-- Completion of the second Hamah water distribution line and its inclusion in the next 5-year plan.

3-- For future planning, the Hamah Water Authority, in coordination with the Technical Services Administration and the Hamah city council, has been charged with conducting a study for drilling a number of artesian wells and securing the stand-by reservoirs around the city for any future contingency. Work on this project will begin immediately.

Who Is Responsible?

Finally, following this review of the full details of the fresh water story in Hamah and the rumors about it being contaminated because of its turbidity and a several-day cutoff, during which the entire city was drinking water from wells and stand-by reservoirs, we have to assign responsibility for what happened. So, who is responsible?

At the outset, the flood represents a warning bell that a potential problem may arise in the future if necessary measures are not taken. Indeed, efforts made by officials and administrators, led by his excellency the governor, are praiseworthy. However, we have a number of reservations in this regard:

1-- The primary and most important cause was the water from the unexpected flood that hit al-Qusayr filtration plant. The question here is, if the culprit in this case is Mother Nature, why were we not aware of this matter before it happened? And why were we not prepared to deal with it to spare the city of Hamah such an incident?

2-- Was the control system at al-Qusayr plant unable to detect the beginning of the flood gushing from Lebanon to alert officials to the need to guard against damage and losses, or to divert the flood's course away from the reservoirs by closing the plant's gates to the canals and diverting the flood to the al-'Asi River? Investigations revealed that the gushing water needed half an hour to get to the gates, enough time for notification, if not action. If the plant watchman's account that "the flood was huge and torrential and we were on the opposite side and unable to cross to the other side and had no means of communication to contact Hamah...", is to be believed, does it make sense that the plant should be left without any means of communication during all that time? And does the plant have enough personnel to set up any future contingency measures?

3-- It is certain that the major part of the responsibility falls on the Hamah Water Authority, which would do well to guard against such happenings, particularly since the plant's administration had more than once requested necessary machinery and equipment from the water authority, but such requests were not fulfilled and shortcomings were not remedied.

4-- We confirm the proposals made by the governor of Hamah to solve the Hamah water problem, the most important of which were speedy completion of the fourth reservoir at al-Qusayr plant and the inclusion of the second line for Hamah water in the next 5-year plan, due to the importance of this project in supplying fresh water to the province and safeguarding it from possible natural incidents in the future. The flood that hit Hamah is a case in point.

12502

CSO: 44040436

MEANS TO COMBAT WHEAT SMUGGLING IN HAMAH DISCUSSED

44040450b Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jul 87 p 6

[Article by 'Abd-al-Khaliq Maghmumah: "Hamah: Governorate Council Discusses Wheat-marketing Situation; Delivery to State Amounts to 60 Percent of Plan"]

[Text] Within the framework of its ordinary session, the Hamah Governorate Council discussed the issue of grain marketing in the governorate, the gaps showing in this activity, and the problems faced by the marketing activities.

The council devoted a full working session to this issue and discussion on the issue was opened by Hamah governor, who said:

The quantity of grains planned to be produced by the governorate this season was 240,000 tons. Because of the poor season, the figure was reduced to 200,000 tons. So far, only 75,000 tons have been delivered to the Grains Bureau, in addition to 10,000 tons from the seed multiplication farms, whereas 125,000 tons were supposed to be delivered to the bureau, with the farmers keeping 75,000 tons for supplies, seeds, crushed wheat, and other purposes.

Committees have been formed throughout the districts and include as members the district officer, the subdistrict officer, the party branch secretaries, the farmers associations, and the security branch offices.

A central committee has also been formed to supervise the grain-marketing activities. It is headed by the governor and includes as members all officials concerned with the marketing processes.

All available resources have been put at the disposal of these committees, which can stop and impound private and public vehicles and grains not delivered to the Grains Bureau.

However, these committees have not performed their role effectively. Moreover, they have not at all harassed the farmers.

The Governorate Council chairman added: The farmer must cooperate with the government and deliver the grains produced in accordance with the leadership's and premiership's instructions.

Instructions have been issued for the confiscation of all quantities of grains not delivered to the Grains Bureau. Some farmers have performed their full duties and delivered their entire grain crops whereas others have refrained from delivering their wheat.

Moreover, merchants have been actively purchasing grain and this has led to a drop in the volume of grain delivered recently.

A meeting was held for all the officials concerned with this area and committees were formed to supervise on the spot the local committees which have not so far performed their duty in the best way possible, to refer contraveners to the courts, and to confiscate the grain not delivered yet. We will continue to supervise the marketing activities until all grain is delivered. The committees have been instructed to inspect all warehouses, farmers' homes, and chicken and fish farms and to confiscate all wheat found in accordance with the regulations governing the licenses issued the farmers and with the acreage licensed to be cultivated, and to compare this acreage with the quantities delivered. The farmers will be required to deliver the as yet undelivered quantities. Committees failing to perform their duties in the best manner possible will be held accountable.

Moreover, the gentlemen members of the Governorate Council are invited to take part in this campaign to implement the plan by showing up with the district and subdistrict officers.

The Governorate Council members commented on the council chairman's statements and Yusuf Ahmad said:

We are talking today about wheat smuggling by the farmers to numerous places. Many of the colleagues are fully familiar with this issue. But I believe that it is now too late to combat this smuggling in the current year.

How I wish you had instructed this council member at the outset of the harvest season because the instructions would have then produced a good result and because every colleague would have done what is required of him in his area.

The council member pointed out that wheat is smuggled after the smuggling route is reconnoitered by smugglers on motorcycles, that the farmer tries to sell his wheat in the manner he deems fit, and that the patrols organized to combat smuggling have not fulfilled what is required of them because they have become well known to all.

Mukhwil Abu-Hamidah said: The grain-marketing issue is very important because it is directly tied to the citizen's food. It would have been beneficial if we had taken part in the committees which discussed this issue. Regrettably, we were not invited. I hope our participation will spread in the future to all the local committees concerned with marketing,

irrigation, beets, and other issues. For us to be able to collect the largest quantity possible of wheat seed, I propose, in addition to what the council chairman has proposed:

1. That we mobilize the farmers behind this national issue through their popular and political organizations.
2. That we refund the value of the sacks delivered, regardless of weight, because the centers receive at least eight sacks for each ton without refunding their value, not to mention the excess sacks.
3. That we stiffen control over the merchants, watch them carefully, and give them a final period of grace before the committees launch their inspections.
4. That we leave 10 percent of the production for the farmers to be used for crushed wheat, seed, and other purposes.
5. There is a decree that excess empty sacks be delivered to the bureaus. So far, the centers have received no instructions on this issue.
6. That we ban merchants from trading in empty sacks because this trade helps smuggling.
7. Allowing the inspection committees to enter homes will create a negative impact among the masses of poor farmers. Such a step is needless.

Member 'Abd-al-Karim Humaydi said:

This year's grain-marketing season is not over yet. Therefore, there is ample time for the farmers to deliver their grain production.

At the end of the session devoted to discussing the governorate's grain-marketing issue, the Grains Bureau director said: Insofar as the sacks issue is concerned, the number of returnable sacks for the delivery of grains is set as follows:

1. A total of eight sacks are returned for every ton of wheat delivered.
2. A total of 10 sacks are returned for every ton of barley delivered.
3. A total of seven sacks are returned for every ton of lentils or chickpeas delivered.

The purpose of this procedure is to eliminate the role of the individual who counts the sacks so that he may not tamper with the figures. The center calculates the number of sacks received on the basis of this principle and delivers grain in sacks to the mills or to other parties on the basis of this principle.

This decree established the purchase instructions in the wake of discussions at a meeting held by the governorates' grains directors. As for the question of returning sacks exceeding the farmer's needs, these sacks are collected from the farmer, who is refunded for them after the purchase processes are completed so that the accounting and payment activities may not be delayed.

This year's grain-marketing instructions do not require the farmers to return the excess sacks remaining at their disposal and they are not charged for not returning them to the establishment.

As for grains rejected by the Seed Multiplication Establishment, grain sacks are collected by the Grains Establishment, not by the Seed Multiplication Establishment, because the latter does not sell sacks. A sum of 20 Syrian pounds is paid for every sack received, regardless of what party delivers it.

8494/12851

PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES' STUDENTS EXAMINED

44040450a Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Rasim al-Wa'ri: "Where Do Graduates of Technical Schools and Middle-level Agricultural and Veterinary Institutes Go? Abundance of Graduates While Ministry of Agriculture Experiences Shortage; Pressing Graduates into Field Work Provides Opportunity for Creating Generation of Educated Farmers"]

[Text] The previous 5-year plan devoted so much attention to agriculture that it called 1983 the year of agriculture. Within this framework, the plan entrusted skilled agricultural cadres with a significant responsibility to create real agricultural development in the countryside.

The real situation proves that the skilled agriculturalists' contribution to agricultural development has been very limited. This limited contribution is due to numerous reasons which we can sum up in the unavailability of the objective circumstances for these skilled cadres to be present in the field side by side with the producing farmer. This is in addition to the flaw existing in the agricultural education establishments themselves.

In Area of Secondary Agricultural Education

This type of education is undertaken by several kinds of schools distributed in a number of governorates as follows:

First, technical agricultural secondary schools total five in number and are distributed in the governorates of Dar'a, Hamah, Idlib, Latakia, and Dayr al-Zawr.

A total of 787 students graduated from these schools in the 1983-87 period. A total of 1,557 graduates work in the Ministry of Agriculture. According to its new 5-year plan, the ministry needs 265 more graduates.

Second, the two agricultural machinery technical schools, in Aleppo and al-Qamishli Provinces have graduated 256 students. The ministry needs 12 more students.

Third, there are two technical veterinary secondary schools, one in Damascus and one in Hamah, which, just for the sake of example, graduated 236 students in the 1983-87 period.

A total of 627 graduates work in the ministry currently. The ministry needs 122 more graduates.

Fourth, a total of six graduates from the Forestry Secondary School work in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Middle-level Agricultural Institutes

Graduates of high school, science branch, are accepted in these institutes, which offer a 2-year course and which include the following:

First, the middle-level agricultural institutes belonging to the Ministry of Higher Education in Damascus, Aleppo, and Latakia. These institutes were founded in 1970.

To find out the number of graduates from these institutes, I contacted the Ministry of Higher Education on 2 successive days but was not able to obtain any information because the ministry's authorities concerned have prohibited their directorates from supplying any information without the assistant minister's approval. After I had obtained this approval, my request was referred to the ministry's press office where one rarely finds an official in charge of running the office. This is why I will convey the information I have acquired from the Ministry of Agriculture on these institutes. A total of 301 graduates of these institutes were working in the Ministry of Agriculture by the end of 1976 [sic]. The ministry needs 175 more graduates.

The available information confirms that it is not known how these students are distributed in the government departments because the ministry is not required to employ them.

Second, the institutes belonging to the Ministry of Industry:

A total of 11 graduates of the Middle-level Agricultural Machinery Institute in Aleppo work in the Ministry of Agriculture. The ministry needs 11 more graduates.

A total of 188 students graduated from the Dayr al-Zawr Middle-level Veterinary Medicine Institute, which belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture. Of these graduates, 102 work in the Ministry of Agriculture, which needs 64 more graduates.

A total of 41 graduates of al-Raqqah Middle-level Land Reclamation Institute work in the Ministry of Agriculture which, according to its new plan, needs 10 more such graduates.

The Latakia Middle-level Tobacco Institute: No statistics are available on this institute.

A total of 175 graduates of the Middle-level Forestry and Forests Institute work in the Ministry of Agriculture, which needs 49 more such graduates.

A total of two graduates of the Middle-level Livestock Production Institute work in the Ministry of Agriculture, which needs one more such graduate.

By studying the above-mentioned figures, we notice that the Ministry of Agriculture needs more graduates of the agricultural secondary schools and institutes. But student disinclination to enroll in these schools and institutes creates an obstacle in the face of attaining the fundamental objective behind the creation of these schools and institutes, namely to enable, according to the Ministry of Agriculture's figures, these institutes to graduate twice the number of agricultural engineers so that these graduates may help the engineers observe and keep track of all developments in the cultivated area.

Here, we wonder: Why are students disinclined to enroll in these institutes? They are disinclined to study agricultural specializations because there are no guarantees of work upon graduation, because the financial benefits and incentives given students during the education period are meager, because some schools have no boarding facilities, because study requirements, such as farms, machinery, and equipment, are not adequately available, and because the primary emphasis is put on theoretical studies. Thus, the student's sole concern is to get the diploma, keeping in mind that the teaching and instruction staff is not adequately trained in the technical and practical areas to engage in agricultural instruction.

On the other hand, the agricultural institutes are divided between various ministries, such as the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Irrigation. This poses a big problem to the process of coordination between these various agencies in planning the ideal manpower that has to be trained for agricultural work. The result is either a shortfall or an excess of manpower--both of which create an economic problem for which a solution must be sought. In this regard, we believe that it is necessary to tie the various institutes to a single authority which can shoulder the full responsibility of selecting students according to practical bases so that these students may end up being agricultural experts and in order that these institutes may not just be turned into a place to acquire a diploma for employment. We must also keep in mind the need to give these institutes' graduates the financial benefits given to graduates of similar middle-level institutes.

This is in addition to the need to develop the teaching faculty according to a plan compatible with the technologies of modern scientific agricultural research and in a manner that serves the process of complete agricultural development balancing a qualitative and quantitative increase in production

with future population growth and taking into consideration that the cultivable area is fixed, not to say decreasing.

Finally, we stress the importance of providing land and the production requirements to any of these graduates who wishes to engage in farming directly. We should do this with the purpose of creating an educated farmer who can overcome all the obstacles he encounters in his work without the need to refer to an agricultural engineer or a veterinarian.

8494/12851

INTER-AFRICAN SOCIALIST GENERAL COUNCIL CONCENTRATES ON DEBT

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 22 Jun 87 pp 10-12

[Article by S.H.: "Africa's Debt"]

[Text] Six years after the birth of the Inter-African Socialist Organization (IAS), under the leadership of Presidents Bourguiba and Senghor, the work of its General Council in Tunis on 14 and 15 June undeniably conferred a new and expanded dimension upon it.

That incentive is not solely due to the positive results, hailed by the General Council, of action undertaken under the guidance of IAS President Leopold Sedar Senghor and Hedi Baccouche, general secretary of the organization, for 2 years part of the PSD leadership. New memberships, of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party and the Neo-Wafd, bear witness to the attraction exercised by the principles and action of the IAS and the understanding of its contribution to the continent.

The fact remains that behind the political determination of its founders, the IAS must take its place as an instrument making a concrete, efficient and realistic contribution and set itself up as an entity of African strength and values, transcending theories and speeches. By plunging into the very heart of essential problems facing the entire continent, setting forth precise guidelines and establishing objectives, the Inter-African Socialist Organization General Council completed the necessary phase of maturity in Tunis.

Founded in an area afflicted with problems only aggravated by time, the IAS assumed an obviously difficult task from birth. Adhesion to its guiding principles based on a democratic, human socialism and rallying support for its objectives of building solidarity and support for liberation struggles were foreseeable and natural, inasmuch as two of the most illustrious figures in the African fight for dignity and development, Bourguiba and Senghor, had presided over the creation of the IAS. The Inter-African Socialist Organization was even rooted in privileged soil imbued with cultural and historical traditions of social solidarity, continuing consultation, mutual help and dialogue. And yet, strength cannot emanate solely from the roots, however deep and powerful they may be, if they do not receive the help of stimulation apt to encourage the sprouting and growth of the seeds of the future.

For Africa, that future involves an unstoppable, demanding, economic dimension to which the IAS is summoned to provide its own type of response.

IAS Contribution

The work of the General Council helped to define that response. Two resolutions adopted, one of a general nature and the other economic, gave the dimension of the IAS's interest in all aspects of African problems.

In granting a major role to economic issues, the speech by Rachid Sfar, prime minister and general secretary of the PSD, at the opening session of the Council set the tone for a vision of the IAS resolutely turned toward realistic, concerted, coherent action by African socialism.

In particular, Sfar emphasized the notion of the coordination of policies of social progress and human advancement and those of "overall, structural" economic development. The mistake, the prime minister emphasized, would lie in continuing to believe, when history has demonstrated the opposite, that a social policy can be independent of a solid economic foundation closely based on existing conditions and demands. Sclerosis due to excessive theorizing and paralysis due to bureaucratization have sounded the death knell of rigid dogmas and policies, imposing the strength and vitality of progress through the flexibility of structures, encouragement to creativity and private initiative and free competition, the source of incentive and originator of effort.

In outlining this picture of new economic conditions, Sfar thus appealed for economic involvement of citizens in national development through their active contribution to the social progress to which they aspire and of which economic development is the underpinning and guarantor.

It is for that reason, given the driving force of social and economic interdependence, that the IAS, initially a political instrument for rallying and coordinating African Socialist parties, is now challenged in the economic arena and the formulation of its personal solutions.

However, the prime minister emphasized an essential point in turning to the concern for fidelity, in the application of the necessary readjustment programs, to the basic principles of human socialism on which the IAS was founded. Stressing the current period of disinformation, the prime minister emphasized the overriding need for the IAS to deliver, to young people in particular, a message that is both credible and reassuring, concerning the organization's determination to work for a real socialism that is loyal to its roots and that looks to the future.

In order to escape the danger of hollow slogans, the IAS has a wealth of concrete points on which to base its discourse.

Crucial Question of the Debt

During the work of the General Council, Sfar's speech, presentation of the general report by Hedi Baccouche and the adoption of final resolutions all devoted major attention to a precise question facing the African continent: that of the foreign debt.

The priority and acuteness of the issue were illustrated by the decision to call an international conference on Africa's debt on the occasion of the next IAS congress in Tunis in January.

Nor was it a fortuitous decision, insofar as the burden of the debt stands in the way of all efforts that can be made in Africa in all sectors of development. If sufficient oxygen is not pumped in, there will be no viable relief, especially for the poorest countries on the continent.

The IAS, which preaches coordination, cooperation and harmony, provides a suitable framework so that several African countries, coming together by virtue of the same ideal of progress and justice, may formulate concrete solutions to the debt crisis. Several of the prime minister's ideas on the subject were taken up and developed within the framework of the General Council's economic resolution.

The latter recommended the coordination of views in responding to the debt problem in order to be able to join together, with the strength provided by a unanimous voice, concrete solutions adapted to Africa to international financial bodies. One of the most urgent requests would be the conversion of short-term credits now granted to African countries into medium-term credits so as to enable the various readjustment programs to bear fruit and without the recovering, reorganizing economies being forced to face the limitations and constraints of immediate repayment.

It was also agreed to ask the wealthy countries and international institutions to support aid to structural adjustment and to negotiate with them on the conditions for aid so that African countries will not have to devote over 15 or 20 percent of their export receipts to servicing the debt.

The weight which the voice of the IAS could have on financial organizations is all the more real because the General Council noted that numerous African countries have already embarked upon readjustment programs aimed at increasing their reliability with loan organizations. This is all the more encouraging because the African countries as a whole are coming together in comprehending priorities and solutions. The General Council noted, for example, the African consensus on the need to revive agriculture and to become self-sufficient in food, as well as on the promotion of economic policies stimulating private initiative. In addition to its concrete proposals on the debt, the General Council also called for an intensification of inter-African trade and the establishment of regional economic units so as to give shape to a prosperous, dynamic and more autonomous economy with regard to foreign markets.

Homage to Creators and Promoters of the IAS

In addition to its purely economic resolution, which without doubt constitutes the most innovative aspect of its work, the General Council adopted a general resolution all of whose points refer to the guiding ideals of the IAS. Its determination to work for human, democratic socialism, enamored of social justice and respect for human rights, was reaffirmed, with the hope of new memberships that will illustrate how far Africa has come on the path of

freedom and dignity. The General Council then took up a number of international questions whose epicenters are located on the continent: South Africa, with greater support for the fight of the African National Congress against apartheid; Namibia, with a demand to apply the UN resolutions; Chad, with the observation of an encouraging process of recovery of its national integrity; and an improvement in Algerian-Moroccan relations that underlie the prospect for Maghrebian unity.

The IAS also renewed its support for the fight of the Palestinian people and backed the idea of an international conference attended by all parties concerned.

The enunciation of these constant, unchanging positions illustrated the aspect of the original reference of the work of the General Council. In that spirit, the Council paid homage to the eminent creators and promoters of the IAS. President Bourguiba, honorary president, was hailed for his contribution to the fight of Africans for their dignity, freedom and the affirmation of their identity, thus embodying an example from which Africa will long be able to draw inspiration, determination and the guarantee of success.

In addition, the General Council hailed the decision of acting President Leopold Sedar Senghor to retire at the next congress in 1988 and expressed its thanks to him for his action at the head of the IAS.

Baccouche, who will be succeeded as general secretary of the IAS by the new director of the PSD, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, was congratulated for the work he has done for 2 years, during which time new memberships have provided proof of an active contribution to expansion of the IAS and a broadening of its work.

The work of the General Council thus summed up the positive work done by the IAS in the 6 years of its existence and a line of conduct based on a more concrete vision of the requirements ahead. Because Africa has more and more leaders aware of its needs, priorities, fundamental crises and suitable structural reforms, the socialism on which the IAS is based has been enriched by realism and a determination for action. Because Africa confesses to such crucial, ravaging, burdensome problems, there is no longer any room for empty abstract theory and sterile rhetoric. The evolution has confronted the continent with the need for planning, action and active participation, which is why the mission of the IAS, while drawing on the traditional values that constitute its wealth, must now be translated into terms of realistic and precise action based on specific objectives. In Tunis, the IAS outlined its new dimensions as a political instrument for which democratic socialism is the vector, also with an economic vocation. The urgent needs of the continent are mainly economic and any organization that claims to want to advance the cause of Africans, their progress, freedom and dignity, can no longer avoid, under penalty of avoiding the realities of life and the future, speaking in terms of the debt, adjustment policies, the evaluation of the prospects of trade, agriculture, demography, and so on.

This is the wager, an enormous one, of promoting within itself an emancipating action that is political, economic, social and cultural all at the same time, which the work of the General Council has set before the IAS. What the Inter-African Socialist Organization set forth in 1981, it must now, in 1987, devote to Africa.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY MINISTER ON COOPERATION WITH MAGHREB STATES

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 1 Aug 87 p 37

[Interview with Slaheddine Ben M'barek, Tunisian Minister of Commerce and Industry; in Tunis; date of interview not given]

[Text] Tunisia seeks to emerge from its current economic problems by promoting exports, reducing state expenditures, reorganizing the public sector, and developing industrial integration with other Maghreb states. In this exclusive interview with AL-TADAMUN/BUSINESS, which coincided with his return from a business trip to Algeria, Minister of Commerce and Industry Slaheddine Ben M'Barek discusses the important aspects of the economic reform plan. He is an authority on Tunisian-Algerian cooperation. Before returning to the ministry of commerce and industry, whose portfolio he had from 1977 to 1980, he was for many years in charge of the board of the Arab Maghreb Development Bank created jointly by Tunisia and Algeria. The interview took place in his office, which used to be occupied by Rachid Sfar who moved to the prime ministry.

[Question] You recently visited Algeria, where you held official talks with the minister of heavy industry on the development of bilateral cooperation. Are there any real opportunities for laying a foundation for cooperation and integration in both commerce and industry?

[Answer] I visited Algeria to supervise Tunisia Day at Algeria's 23rd World Exposition. The density of Tunisian representation at the exposition won the admiration of the Algerians and other participants. In attendance were representatives of more than 65 economic institutions, as well as a large number of businessmen. Several good deals were made by both sides. That spectacular attendance was one manifestation of bilateral cooperation, which is nothing new between the two countries but dates back to the "Treaty of Brotherhood and Neighborliness" signed in 1983 by presidents Habib Bourguiba and Schedli Benjedid. This new trend is reflected in all sectors and endeavors. Trade has tripled since the treaty and can grow some more. We reached agreement on about 10 bilateral industrial projects, some of which will go on line this year, such as the white cement plant and the diesel engine factory. Certain projects are still in the legalization stage and others are undergoing final studies. I would like to emphasize that these projects are prompted by our constant effort and care to accomplish industrial integration with

Algeria and other Maghreb states. This integration is still in the bilateral stage, which we hope will soon encompass the greater Maghreb and determine the specialties of the various economies in order to avoid wasting effort and investment in similar sectors and projects that do not provide exchange opportunities.

[Question] Before your trip to Algeria, you were visited in Tunis by the Moroccan minister of commerce and industry with whom you had official talks on industrial integration. Is there an inclination to promote economic cooperation with Morocco after a period of stagnation?

[Answer] It was a happy coincidence that the Moroccan minister of commerce and industry visited us in Tunis a few days before my trip to Algeria. We were able to take a new step toward integration, and we looked at new projects. Our progress in that direction was made easier because there exists an agreement on the framework for industrial cooperation with Morocco and a similar agreement with Algeria, which enables us to joint ventures.

[Question] The promotion of exports is a major objective of the economic reform plan instituted by the government last summer. What has been accomplished in that regard? By what means is the government promoting exports?

[Answer] Export promotion has the highest priority and is one of the main objectives of the (current) seventh development plan for several reasons. Only through increased exports can we achieve a balanced balance of payments, or at least reduce the imbalance, and provide an important source of foreign exchange. It is imperative that we export goods and services in order to reduce the trade deficit and make up for the shortfall in our hard currency earnings. Another reason for our emphasis on exports is to create jobs. The domestic market is limited, and the projects we initiated since independence were mainly for import substitution, which is subject to a certain ceiling. We must therefore look to foreign markets in our effort to continue developing. Such markets are primarily in the Arab Maghreb, followed by markets in sister Arab countries and foreign markets in Europe and Africa. We have therefore begun to emphasize projects devoted exclusively or partially to exports. By developing along these priorities, we are certain to create more jobs, solve the export problem, and meet the challenge of our economic development plan. The seventh plan calls for 70,000 additional jobs per year. This means a total of 350,000 jobs over its span of five years. These are ambitious goals, but they must be met. The plan also calls for increasing non-oil exports by 8 percent and developing small industries at an annual goal of the preceding plan. Tourism--in essence the exporting of services--is targeted for an annual increase of 7.7 percent, compared to only 3 percent in the previous plan.

Other measures we took to promote exports include the creation of export speciality firms; the establishment of a fund to promote exports, especially in the sectors of transport, marketing, exhibits, and foreign market studies; instituting a mechanism to insure loans for export; and simplifying administrative procedures at the departments of customs, foreign trade, and transport. We

will continue these efforts in order to lighten the burden on exporters, which is no less important than the measures previously discussed.

As for legislation, we are working on a new investment law that would grant privileges to firms that export, even to a partial degree. We will continue to reduce the formalities for exporters and to remove obstacles to production and export through cooperating with the relevant authorities. Such policies have already been fruitful, especially after the dinar was modified. I am saying "modified" instead of "devalued" because its value was exaggerated compared to other currencies and has now been brought back to its natural state. We have attained encouraging results in the first five months of the plan--the best results that we have ever accomplished since independence. Exports in the first five months of the current year increased by one-third over the same period of 1986, which enabled us to cover 74 percent of our trade deficit compared to only 58 percent previously. That was the highest percentage since independence, and it was accomplished by invigorating such sectors as textiles, shoes, fertilizers, foods, and machinery. Yet we are still at the beginning of the road, and we must persevere along this path because by 1991 we will be a net importer of petroleum, which means that our oil imports will be larger than our exports. We must prepare now for that change.

12945/12951

COMMITTEE APPROVES THIRD 5-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN

44040429 Sanaa AL-THAWRA in Arabic 17 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] The Higher Committee for the Third 5-Year Economic and Social Development Plan met yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister, chairman of the Higher Committee, and member of the Permanent Committee.

The meeting was devoted to a discussion of general strategy concerning the third 5-year plan, and broad, general policy lines for economic and social development during the third 5-year plan for 1987-91. The meeting took place in the context of the general framework established by the Higher Committee concerning the plan, the long-term goals of the national economy, and the priorities which must be summarily achieved in order to strengthen the country's power, and provide comfort and happiness to its citizens under the aegis of freedom, the expansion of democratic practices, and the firm establishment of security and stability.

A comprehensive discussion took place regarding the general strategy and the broad outlines for general development policies, including economic, financial, monetary, and wage and price policies.

The Higher Committee for the Third 5-Year Plan approved a document pertaining to the general strategy of the plan and the broad outlines of the plan's general policy after amending it. It is to be noted that the strategy, its goals and objectives were derived from the six principles of the glorious September revolution, the contents of the National Charter, and the decisions and directives issued by the third People's General Congress. This strategy is also based on the message of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, and general secretary of the People's Congress, which provided guidelines to the government, and reaffirmed adherence to the decisions and recommendations of the People's Congress, and called for their expeditious implementation.

The general strategy is based on two complimentary principles. The first is the best possible exploitation of available national resources. The second is the continuous effort to search out, discover and develop hidden resources which can augment the available capabilities needed to expand and expedite development in the interest of building a better future for

our citizens. The strategy is based on the premise of assigning great importance to increasing production, diversifying sources of income from production, raising the level of production, improving worker performance, effecting a just distribution of production revenues, balancing the development of the service sectors, and shifting from a focus on the establishment of basic structures and a utilities infrastructure to a focus on production projects in the commodities sectors--primarily agriculture, fishing, and the strategic industries, including the energy and fuel industries, mineral and non-mineral raw materials, and local primary materials. The strategy also emphasizes the quantitative and qualitative expansion of education, technical and vocational training, preventative and curative health care services, and the establishment of Yemeni cadres capable of assuming the responsibility for development and providing quality management as well as ensuring high levels of production aptitude, and self-reliance in different areas. The strategy also emphasizes continued work to complete the basic development structure.

The general strategy for the third 5-year plan also provides for the gradual, annual increase of investment levels contingent on an increase in capabilities, especially foreign currency resources. Concurrently, qualified technical, specialist, and administrative Yemeni manpower cadres would replace non-Yemeni foreign labor in running production facilities and various developmental institutions in the country.

The strategy aims to subject all projects to a financial and economic evaluation in order to ascertain their benefit before they are finally implemented. It also requires placement of valuable projects into well integrated organizations in order to achieve lasting goals. Another requirement concerns scheduling the implementation of these projects, adhering to the projects timetable, and not allowing projects to be in conflict or competition with each other for scarce material, specialized skills, manpower, and contractors' equipment in order not to impede implementation, raise the costs of implementation, or diminish performance.

The general strategy for economic and social development emphasizes the role played by the ministries, which oversee the activities of the production and service sectors, in sponsoring private and cooperative sector investment. The pertinent ministries would encourage the private and cooperative sector and provide the elements for its success and effective participation in the achievement of the goals which the plan aims to achieve in different branches of the Yemeni economy. The ministries would also ensure cohesion, coordination and integration, not only in the plan's public projects, but also in the projects of the private and cooperative sector. This is accomplished through comprehensive programming whereby all projects contribute to the achievement of the goals of the development plan, and to maximum utilization of the country's development resources and energies.

The strategy underscores the importance of the effective role which small production projects can play in the sectors of agriculture and manufacturing industries, and in the transportation, commercial and tourist

services. This is in view of the fact that these projects open the door for the investment of small, national, capital savings. They also provide employment opportunities vital to the utilization of Yemeni manpower. The general development strategy aims to organize the introduction of modern technological methods according to programs which takes into account the orientation of contemporary, scientific and cultural achievements. This will serve society, and help it to realize its aspirations and goals by ensuring coordination and harmony between the technology we choose to increase production, raise work productivity, and increase investment returns on the one hand, and what we are aiming for in terms of increasing productive work opportunities for the Yemeni work force.

The strategy is likewise oriented toward making every possible effort to mobilize latent, unexploited, local capabilities through the local, elected councils. It seeks the contributions of a public conscious of the need for development efforts even at the level of the smallest administrative units. These units would participate in determining priorities for general services on the basis of the citizens' basic needs and would encourage individual and collective initiatives in the implementation of production projects capable of being successfully implemented with the available natural, financial and human resources. The determination of these priorities also takes into account the benefit derived from combining centralized planning with decentralized administration and implementation. Such a combination will lead to a greater share of development activities and development projects for remote and deprived regions with development potential. This will give these regions a chance to attract development and expand their production base with a comprehensiveness that will gradually embrace different parts of the country. The strategy also focuses on developing administrative systems and strengthening their functions in the areas of planning, programming, coordination, policymaking and on the need to work within these systems in an integrated, coordinated and harmonious manner.

13286/9190

NEW ECONOMIC PLANS, PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

Economic Situation Summarized

44040419a London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 Jul 87 pp 13-14

[Excerpt] A visitor to Yemen these days would clearly observe that this country has several priorities as it embarks on a new stage of development on the eve of the third development plan to be announced next month.

In a country such as Yemen, whose financial resources are limited and small, a visitor would readily notice that Yemenis are mainly concerned with the economy and with petroleum, tourism, and attempts to preserve the character of Sanaa.

It seems that Yemen is about to cross important thresholds in the immediate future if the state is successful in its third development plan and if petroleum discoveries, expected to become productive over the next few months, can help support that plan. Yemen, in the period from 1981 to the beginning of 1987, experienced economic problems aggravated by the state's dependence on foreign assistance and expatriate remittances. The decline of revenues from both sources led the state to take economical steps and impose austerity measures in an attempt to save the national economy. Among such measures were a ban on the import of luxury and agricultural goods, foreign exchange controls, and a requirement that those entering the country exchange \$150 up on arrival.

Foreign exchange restrictions enabled the state to control the dollar's rate of exchange, currently set by the central bank at 9.5 riyals, after it reached a high of 12 riyals at exchange shops that were consequently closed down by the authorities for black marketing. Government warning to black market dealers that they would face prison sentences were successful to a great extent and had an impact on their dealings.

Government action forbidding the import of fruits and foodstuffs, as well as measures to preserve hard currency, resulted in noticeable price increases. A visitor to Sanaa would get the impression that it has become one of the most expensive capitals in the world.

The Yemeni government intends by its current measures to support the country's agricultural sector and induce farmers to return to their fields. Yemen is

an agricultural country above all else. The measures taken by the state in this regard reflect this emphasis. Some 219 million riyals were allotted to agriculture during the 3-year development plan and the first 5-year plan. Increased emphasis on this sector gave it as much as 13.6 percent of all investments under the second 5-year plan. Yet all the efforts, including the proclamation of 1984 as Agricultural Development Year in Yemen, did not reverse a steady decline in agrarian development. This caused the government great concern, because it meant that growth and development were not assured in the long run.

At present, Yemen is largely preoccupied with raising the efficiency of domestic production. This emphasis will be reflected in the third 5-year plan when it is made public, as indicated in a speech by President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at revolution anniversary celebrations last year. He paid special attention to handling the economic situation that resulted in a national budgetary deficit of 600 million dollars. The president of Yemen called for more investment in agriculture and for establishing firms specializing in that field.

The Yemeni president said at the time that government perseverance in that direction and the creation of industries based on domestic raw materials would help improve the economic situation and support the national economy in the face of changing conditions. The return to agriculture is the natural outcome of the government's realization that dependence on vacillating resources is fraught with problems. More than 70 percent of the Yemeni budget was dependent on foreign assistance and expatriate remittance, which were severely curtailed as a result of the decline in oil prices and economic stagnation in host countries. There are about 1.4 million Yemeni expatriates whose remittances played an important role in financing the second 5-year plan. It was estimated that national reserves would supply 47.5 percent of investments in the second plan and cover the budgetary deficit whose main support used to come from Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government helped to cover that deficit several times and so Yemen looks to Saudi Arabia with special appreciation. This was obvious in remarks by prime minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani at meetings of the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council which concluded last week, where the Saudi side was headed by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation. 'Abd-al-Ghani said: "The Yemeni government appreciates the Saudi role in supporting Yemen. Saudi Arabia has given a lot, motivated by a steadfast policy that considers Yemen a sister country for whom it has devoted considerable resources toward development and modernization and improving the quality of life for its people."

This was the spirit in which the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council held its tenth session, which resulted in a new level of cooperation between the two countries. The council resolved to form a joint ministerial commission composed of officials of the ministries of commerce and other public and private sectors to study the feasibility of bolstering trade and promoting investment.

This climate will prevail next month when the Yemeni government announces its third 5-year development plan, to be partially financed by the Saudi Development

Fund. It was agreed to send a Yemeni technical delegation for discussions with Fund officials. It is obvious that the third plan will suffer a considerable deficit, but things could change depending on the productivity of newly discovered oil fields, especially the Alpha field. Estimates indicate that Yemen might be able to export 180,000 barrels per day by next October. Yemeni officials, probably out of prudence, refuse to respond to reporters' questions on government plans for oil exploitation. Current estimates, however, put oil production at 400,000 barrels by 1990. This would mean revenues of more than \$2.5 billion at current prices. Furthermore, according to statements by Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the government will begin offshore exploration in the next few months.

Such Yemeni economic problems are issues of everyday concern to the citizens because of the direct impact on their standard of living, which the government is attempting to raise despite its limited resources and difficult domestic, regional, and international economic variables.

In short, Yemen is preoccupied with economic and petroleum concerns and price increases which were forcefully confronted by the authorities to protect the citizens against exploitation. The prevailing domestic atmosphere was clearly indicated last week when the government put gasoline station owners in jail for insisting on raising the price of a tin of gasoline from 61 to 64 riyals.

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Plans

44040419b London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 Jul 87 pp 15-16

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH interviewed YAR prime minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani [date and place of interview not given] who discussed developments plans and other economic and social issues. He also discussed saboteurs and said they are currently subject to criminal investigations, the results of which will be announced upon their completion.

[Question] Can we discuss the highlights of the third development plan?

[Answer] Planning in our country has only begun recently with the 3-year plan, which represented our first such experience. We have since implemented the first and second 5-year development plans. Our emphasis in the three plans was on infrastructure projects in agriculture, health, electricity, potable water, and human resources. This was necessary because the country lacked the infrastructure and foundations necessary to build a modern state. The revolution has to provide all that. Our third 5-year development plan, to be announced in September as part of revolution anniversary celebrations, will reflect a shift in emphasis from infrastructure projects to the development of production capability. Our emphasis will be on capital projects, exploring for natural resources such as oil and minerals, and promoting investment in private and public agrarian and industrial projects, especially those based on domestic raw materials. That is the strategy of the plan. The amount of investment involved will be announced after it is approved and the necessary detailed studies are completed.

[Question] What were the drawbacks of the second plan that you seek to avoid in the third one?

[Answer] As a developing nation--as classified by world organizations--we encountered problems similar to those encountered by other nations in similar circumstances. We have a shortage of qualified human resources, which we are aiming to develop in the third plan. We also have a shortage of available capital resources. We used to lack the infrastructure necessary for development plans but, thank God, we were able to create the necessary infrastructure, develop the labor force, and explore for resources at home and abroad. The third 5-year plan will concentrate on developing production and raising the standard of living. It will be easier to implement than its predecessors because it will be built on an already laid foundation.

[Question] How large is the deficit budgeted in the second 5-year plan? Will the third plan be able to avoid a similar deficit?

[Answer] Our previous plans depended on domestic and external resources for financing. Investments under the second 5-year plan totalled some 25 billion riyals, of which a large portion was financed externally by Arab and regional funds or by international organizations such as the World Bank. External financing went mostly to government and public sector projects. Private projects were self-financed domestically for the most part.

[Question] To what extent will the government continue to depend on external financing and expatriate remittances to cover its budget?

[Answer] As a developing nation we will continue to need external financing. Thank God, we did not get morassed in foreign commercial financing since we have resorted so far to what are called "soft loans". We are qualified to receive such loans at very low interest and for very long period averaging 40 to 50 years. As for remittances, they are our main source of foreign exchange. Our imports are considerable, and our export capacity is too small to cover the price of imported goods and equipment. We are trying to gradually gain self-sufficiency by developing our various resources, especially in agriculture and industry. Nevertheless, we will still need assistance from the outside world. I imagine that our dependence on expatriate remittances will lessen when we begin exporting petroleum.

[Question] What is the actual number of expatriate Yemenis? How far did their remittances decline, and what impact did that have on the economy of Yemen?

[Answer] There are more than a million expatriates. Mostly of them are in Saudi Arabia, which they regard as their own country because of the special relationship between the two sister countries. Remittances reached a maximum of \$1.6 billion per year and declined last year to a low of \$500 million. This decline had such a great impact that we were forced to adopt measures to rationalize our foreign trade.

[Question] To what extent did non-Arab foreign assistance decline?

[Answer] We depend basically on assistance from Arab countries and their funds. We also receive non-Arab assistance in the form of loans from the World Bank and its organizations, and from other countries of the world. The level of this aid has remained the same.

[Question] The Yemeni government has taken a series of steps to rationalize spending. How successful were they?

[Answer] The economy was helped a great deal by our measures, especially those dealing with foreign exchange. We closed some currency exchange shops because of manipulation and disregard for rules and regulations. Their owners are being prosecuted on behalf of the country and its citizens. That was a positive measure because people began dealing with the banks. One must have priorities, and I can not say at the moment whether we will continue our measures to rationalize spending and forbid imports. At any rate, the austerity measures had a positive impact, and we were able to halt the decline of the riyal vis-a-vis foreign currencies.

[Question] Don't you think that your measures have affected the purchasing power of the Yemeni citizen?

[Answer] Not at all. These measures were adopted essentially to protect his interests. The measures adopted were operational, much like a traffic signal that protects cars against collision. A rule, when applied to all, serves the interests of all.

[Question] Visitors to Yemen notice that prices are very high. What measures are you taking to ease the cost of living to the citizen?

[Answer] We are attempting to control the prices of basic necessities such as meat, wheat, butter, and milk, which are imported and distributed by the state. We have recently established a new department within the ministry of commerce and supply to police prices and prosecute offenders.

[Question] What's new in oil exploration?

[Answer] Everything is positive. Exploration is still afoot. We are about to complete the pipeline that will transport crude from field to port. Exports will begin when the pipeline is completed in a few months.

[Question] What is the actual volume of discovered petroleum?

[Answer] There is nothing I can add to previous announcements, but exploration continues.

[Question] Firms involved in exploration estimate exportable petroleum at 400,000 barrels per day, compared to official government estimates of 300,000 barrels per day. Which is closer to the truth?

[Answer] The first official announcement estimated the production of one field, that of Alpha, at 500,000 barrels per day. Exploration still continues there

and in other fields. No one can estimate the production of all discoveries until after explorative operations have been completed. Exploration still continues in al-Jawf and Ma'rib, as well as in the central and western regions.

[Question] Can you say that your productive capacity will be around 500,000 barrels per day?

[Answer] [laughter] It is impossible to determine this at the moment since operations and figures are liable to change in the future. But we are optimistic. Our production might reach 500,000 barrels per day, but reserves are something else again.

[Question] Empirically speaking, when will you begin exporting?

[Answer] Before the end of this year, God willing.

[Question] What is your estimate for expected oil returns?

[Answer] That depends on the volume of exports and the future price structure. You can deduce the return if you figure on exports of 150,000 barrels a day at \$18 a barrel.

[Question] Estimates indicate that Yemen could have revenues of \$2.5 billion in 1990. Does this sound reasonable?

[Answer] I can't say, because this depends on the price structures and production ceilings.

[Question] What role will oil play in the third 5-year development plan?

[Answer] As the president, brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, frequently stated, that role will be directed towards investment in productive sectors, especially agriculture.

[Question] What steps is the government taking to bolster agrarian production, which has become your priority once again?

[Answer] We have taken many varied steps. The Yemeni is a farmer deep in his heart. The state is responsible for providing the infrastructure necessary to support agriculture, such as dams, irrigation canals, extension services, and support for animal husbandry.

[Question] To what extent did agricultural production decline?

[Answer] Production declines in certain areas because of housing expansion. We now have plans to direct housing to non-farm acreage. We are preserving farm land and at the same time working to reclaim heretofore arid land. Agricultural production declined during the second 5-year plan as a result of the 1983/1984 drought. People have returned to farming since Col 'Ali 'Abdallah proclaimed 1984 as the year of agriculture. There is new popular enthusiasm, which has led in turn to an increase in agricultural production.

[Question] What is the role of industry under the third 5-year plan?

[Answer] We will seek industries that depend on local resources such as building, cement, furniture, gypsum, and iron. We have plans to manufacture glass, oils, spare parts, and other items currently being imported.

[Question] Is it true that you uncovered a group of saboteurs whose objective was to destabilize Yemen?

[Answer] All I can say is that an investigation is under way, and that the facts will be revealed when the investigation has been completed.

[Question] Anything new in the effort to unify the two Yemens? Any meetings scheduled in the immediate future?

[Answer] Unity is the fate and destiny of the two sections of our people. It is a historical imperative that will take place sooner or later. It will be a source of goodness, security, and stability at the regional, Arab, and international levels. The joint constitutional committee has finished drafting the unification constitution, and the only thing that remains is to take measures for its adoption. This means presenting it for approval to the presidents of the two sectors and putting it to a popular plebiscite in both sectors. The two sectors continue their discussions through joint committees.

[Question] Do you believe that new developments in the southern sector have affected unification efforts?

[Answer] What happened in the southern part of the motherland was an internal affair. Our attitude since the very beginning was to contain the incidents there and to help our brethren halt the fighting. We pleaded with them to overlook the differences that led to those incidents, and we still exert our good offices to bring them closer together. Unification is, as I said, a popular objective in the two sectors. It would mean a return of the part to the whole, which is an issue unaffected by any factors. It will be accomplished when the right time comes.

[Question] How do you view inter-Arab relations? Anything new there?

[Answer] Inter-Arab relations are going through a period of highs and lows. When national interests triumph and every country works towards its own interests and objectives, and when those relations are based on the comprehensive national aspirations of the Arab peoples, and when Arab differences are subordinated to the peoples' desire to resolve them--at that time the Arab effort will collectively emerge, benefiting all the Arab people and our future generations. I think an Arab summit is now needed more than at any other time in the past.

[Question] What would be the main obstacle to convening such a summit?

[Answer] The Arab states have previously agreed to hold a summit once a year. We believe that all inter-Arab problems could be solved if these

summits were held on a regular basis. Current conditions in the Arab world make it necessary for the Arabs to meet in order to resolve differences, clear the air, and deal with Arab survival problems. But the problems and difficulties multiply and get worse in the absence of a summit. We believe that the time is ripe for a summit. Conflicts between certain Arab states can only be resolved at a summit.

12945/12951

REPORT DESCRIBES ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES

44040442d Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Jul 87 p 5

[Report by SABA' NEWS AGENCY: "New Year of Procession of Beneficence, Welfare, and Democracy; Social Welfare, Security, and Insurance."

[Text] This report deals with the state's interest in social welfare, security, and insurance and with the projects accomplished in this sector and it has been prepared on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the reelection of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the office of president and armed forces general commander.

The defunct ecclesiastical regime of the imamate left behind a heavy legacy of poverty, oppression, and social hardship--a legacy which hampered our people's growth and development and made them captive of past social backwardness.

With the inception of the immortal 26 September 1962 revolution, efforts were launched to introduce a fundamental and comprehensive change in society's life, including efforts devoted to building the citizen, to his welfare, and to training him to take part in achieving comprehensive development. This is in addition to efforts to care for the retarded, to house the disabled and the needy, and to help the poor.

Prior to the founding of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the country did not engage in an organized manner in social welfare and service projects. Previously, such services were confined to sustenance aid given to few needy and disabled people.

But the past few years have seen escalating efforts, not only in the social sphere but also in the various development areas, in response to the nature of the important charter phase. This phase's procession is led by brother President and General Commander and Secretary Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who had devoted much of his attention to the social development areas. In this area, numerous social projects have been launched and completed. Laws and regulations have also been promulgated to insure application of the social security law through which care is given the poor, the disabled, and the needy and housing and vocational training centers are provided to all social classes so that the revolution's beneficence and gifts may spread to all citizens.

Because our political leadership emanates from the people, it has worked to correct the once prevalent faulty concept concerning aid to the poor and the disabled. The leadership has done this out of a belief that the revolution was initiated for all Yemeni citizens, including women, men, old people, children, widows, and orphans, and that when the government helps these people, it carries out a duty dictated by our orthodox Islamic religion, by the immortal September revolution's objectives and principles, and by the national charter's provisions. This is why efforts have been exerted to change those concepts which often offended the beneficiary. Social welfare has now become a means of social development which seeks to help the disabled rebuild their lives and characters and take part in the development process, each according to his capability and abilities.

Within this framework, we have surpassed the phase of abstract interpretations and spheres to the phase of abiding by the scientific system of planning, implementation, and followup. This approach has enabled the welfare programs to absorb a large number of the disabled, blind, and needy, who cannot cope with emergency social circumstances. These programs have encompassed individual and family welfare through various social services. Moreover, manpower has been exploited and developed by providing proper work opportunities for workers through the organized use of local and foreign labor, through the founding of vocational and technical training centers in the various work projects, through tackling the social problems, and through organizing and improving labor-owner relations. Full attention and care have also been given to the martyrs' families. It is for these purposes that the government, embodied in the Ministry of Social Affairs, has built premises to house the disabled, the needy, the retarded, and the homeless, has built vocational training centers and reformatories, and has directed and employed the world food program to provide the citizens with social services.

On the occasion of our Yemeni people's celebration of the fourth anniversary of the reelection of brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the office of president and armed forces general commander, we must pause before the accomplishments made by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the welfare area in embodiment of the third objective of the immortal 26 September revolution's objectives and principles, in compliance with the provisions of the national charter, which is our people's theoretical and scientific guide, and out of our political leadership's belief that society's bright, growing, and developing face is fundamentally a reflection of the protection and care the state guarantees its citizens by acknowledging their rights, by caring for both individual and family by protecting society from disintegration and division, by achieving stability in labor and living relations, and by securing the citizen's lives and livelihoods at present and in the future, including cases in which the citizen is disabled, sick, orphaned, or widowed and other cases in which the citizen cannot meet his living requirements. In this quickly compiled report, we must note the social security law which represents a qualitative leap in providing care for the Yemeni citizen and in protecting the family, society's mainstay, and which is in harmony with the leadership's sound

tendencies of working to provide social security and to care for all of society's classes so that all may rise to a level which enables them to shoulder the responsibility, each in the area in which he is capable of doing so. The government, through the Ministry of Social Affairs, has exerted efforts to set up construction and service projects and has promulgated laws and regulations that guarantee delivering these services to those who merit them. These accomplishments include the following:

1. A dormitory to house the Higher Training and Culture Institute's instructors has been completed at a cost of 2,433,690 riyals.
2. A dormitory for the Vocational Training Institute's students has been completed at a cost of 3,232,826 riyals. This dormitory can accommodate 300 students.
3. The workers education building of the Vocational Training Institute has been completed in cooperation with the Arab Labor Organization at a cost of 528,000 riyals. The Arab Labor Organization contributed 455,000 riyals.

In the Area of Social Welfare

Since assuming the presidency, brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has given a large amount of attention to social welfare out of a belief that social welfare, of which the Yemeni citizen was deprived for a long time, constitutes one of the main tasks of the comprehensive development being experienced by our country in this phase of the triumphant September revolution.

1. Social Security

The social security law was promulgated to protect the Yemeni family. The social security services cover most of the republic's cities and villages where citizens in the direst need, such as orphans, children, juveniles, and old people, have benefited from them. Despite the material, technical, and manpower difficulties, the number of beneficiaries of the social security law amounted by the end of June 1986 to 7,688 families comprising 26,266 members.

The total funds spent annually has amounted to 28,960,560 riyals. This is in addition to the old sustenance aid, which amounts to 2,316,996 riyals.

2. Social Defense and Juvenile Welfare

Because no society is free of delinquents, the homeless, and people susceptible to delinquency, the state has exerted efforts to provide all the instruments and means to guarantee reform and guidance. The social defense services currently provided include care for juvenile delinquents and some released prisoners. Juvenile social care is provided through the four social guidance homes in the governorates of Ta'izz, Sanaa, al-Hudaydah, and Ibb. These homes, supervised by the Ministry of Social

Affairs, provide various social, educational, psychological, curative, preventive, medical, and athletic services, elementary education, and vocational training. The homes also exert efforts to implant spiritual and ethical values in the juveniles' minds and to develop a love of country in their hearts. Moreover, the homes provide housing and food services, clothing, and other social services that seek to rebuild the juveniles' character, to correct their social behavior, and to integrate them into society and their natural social environment so as to turn them into good citizens and into self-reliant productive forces that contribute to the various development activities being experienced by our country.

The number of juveniles benefiting from these services amounted by June 1986 to 2,433 juveniles.

In the Area of Care for the Blind, the Retarded, and Old People

The government works to provide care for the old, thus embodying the principle of social integration. Through the Ministry of Social Affairs and in coordination with the other ministries concerned and with the charitable organizations, the government exerts ceaseless efforts to develop and expand the services for the welfare and training of the blind, the retarded, the old, and the disabled by providing them with the various services they need with the purpose of enabling them to rely on their own capabilities and talents, each according to his capacity. This prepares them to live in society without embarrassment and without begging. In this regard, al-Nur Center for the welfare and training of the blind in Sanaa provides full social welfare services, including internal education at the center or external education up to the college level for a number of the blind from both sexes. Numerous blind people graduated from the center and have enrolled in jobs compatible with their capabilities in a number of ministries and organizations.

Efforts are also underway, in cooperation with the Catholic Development and Aid Organization, to provide care for 100 old people from both sexes this year and to a number of physically retarded children at the Social Welfare Home in al-Hudaydah where all social, medical, and psychological services are provided. The Ministry of Social Affairs also cares for 152 individuals living in al-Salam Mental Institute in al-Hudaydah.

As for deaf, mute, and physically impaired children, efforts have been exerted to provide them with a number of grants in Kuwait, the UAE, and the Syrian Arab Republic. A total of 41 retarded children have been sent to these countries to study in their specialized institutes. Efforts are currently underway to set up an institute for the retarded from all three categories with the purpose of providing complete services for the largest number of retarded children in the country.

In the area of vocational training and preparation, the government has, in cooperation with the government of the sisterly Algeria, built the Vocational Training and Worker Education Institute, which is fitted with

basic workshops and has halls for theoretical studies. The institute has conducted a number of training courses for a number of workers who are trained in coordination with the ministries and organizations that need various technical capabilities in the various areas, such as electricity, carpentry, plumbing, construction, ironsmithing, and other skilled crafts.

Out of our political leadership's loyalty to the sacrifices made to enable the immortal 26 September revolution to triumph and to carry on with its giving and its victories, the government has guaranteed the welfare of the families of the martyred, both civilian and military, through the special laws which spell out the government's duties and responsibilities to the martyrs' families. The laws insure that the martyrs' families are given pension benefits embodied in a monthly salary, that care is provided to these families, and that they are given material and moral benefits, such as free medical care at government expense, both inside and outside the country, priority in enrollment in the universities and the military and police academies, and scholarships.

These national and revolutionary accomplishments and gifts demonstrate clearly to us the strides made by our political leadership, headed by brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, the armed forces general commander, the People's Congress secretary general, and Yemen's devoted son, who is always faithful to the Yemeni soil and citizen and who is eager to show appreciation for the dear and invaluable sacrifices made by caravans of our great Yemeni people for the country and the revolution. Within the framework of providing social security to every citizen, laws have been promulgated on the pensions of civil servants and the Civil Service Pension Fund has been established. These laws constitute a qualitative leap in the area of social security legislation because they confirm that the state has undertaken to guarantee civil servants and their families a stable life after their retirement. The laws also provide care for the family of a retired civil servant or a civil servant who dies while still in the service by insuring the disbursement of a pension to such a family.

Leaders' Gift to Workers on Workers Day

To entrench further the principle of social justice and to achieve greater charterist revolutionary accomplishments for our working and charter-oriented Yemeni people, in response to the great escalation experienced by our country in the various areas of comprehensive development, and out of our political leadership's awareness of the importance of establishing and entrenching the bases to guarantee the continuation and expansion of this development, brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, commander, and secretary general, approved on the occasion of our people's celebration of this year's (1987) May Day Law No 16 of 1987 concerning social insurance and Law No 17 of 1987 on setting up the Public Social Insurance Establishment with the purpose of enhancing the workers' living standard and of insuring them a free and honorable life. The social insurance law incorporates 104 articles divided over 9 chapters. The law covers the following social insurance areas:

1. Work-related accident insurance.
2. Old age, disability, and death insurance.
3. Insurance against temporary disability due to sickness or maternity.
4. Medical care insurance in cases of sickness and maternity.
5. Unemployment insurance.
6. Family grants.

The law's provisions cover the application phases, enactment of the law, and exceptions to the application of this law. The provisions also cover applications concerning the various insurance branches, such as insurance against work-related accidents and old age insurance, abidance by business owners by the continued application of the law, and compulsory insurance for both business owners and workers. The law's provisions also stipulate that it is necessary for the owners and workers of a business establishment to be registered. They also explain the method of subscription and deduction and define the method for the payment of subscriptions and additional monies. The provisions further define how the end-of-service compensation is to be paid and the data which must be supplied by the business owner. The provisions of the social insurance law also contain the procedures concerning insurance against work-related accidents and deal with old age, disability, and death insurance. They also explain the question of pensions for those qualifying for it and the prerequisites for the qualification and the question of grants and aid. The law's provisions further explain the method for combining pension with salary, the method of insurance for a departing worker, and the prerequisites for such insurance.

Law No 17 of 1987 on setting up the Public Social Insurance Establishment includes five chapters which spell out the method of setting up the establishment, its financial resources, and its organizational structure. The law also spells out the method of forming the establishment's board of directors and this board's powers.

The social insurance law also gives Yemeni workers abroad the opportunity to take advantage of this law, to insure their lives and to guarantee themselves and their children, upon their death, an honorable future, the same as their brother workers at home.

In fact, the promulgation of the social insurance law and creation of the Insurance Establishment fully embody the leadership's cohesion with the base. This is a principle embraced by Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, the armed forces general commander, the People's Congress secretary general, and Yemen's faithful son. The promulgation of this labor legislation 17 years after promulgation of Labor Law No 5 is intended to deal with the workers' issues and to organize labor-owner relations. It is a major gain for the Yemeni worker who has long awaited and yearned

for such a law so that he and his family may be protected by such a law and may live with full dignity at present and in the future under the canopy of this law. These laws are also likely to encourage the workers to redouble their efforts to increase and improve their production so as to keep pace with the great development and with the ever-growing renaissance being experienced by our country under our political leadership which is eager to achieve social security for all our citizens without discrimination between one sector and another out of its belief that society cannot achieve all it aspires unless all its members move hand in hand, each from his position, to achieve the social security stipulated by the immortal 26 September revolution's objectives and principles and reaffirmed by the national charter and the political action program.

By reviewing the laws, legislation and accomplishments achieved by our country and the gains made for the various social groups, including workers, civil servants, the disabled, and the retarded, we can say that the immortal 26 September revolution's principles and objectives and the national charter's contents are being faithfully embodied on the ground by Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, the armed forces general commander, the People's Congress secretary general, and Yemen's struggling son who is translating words into deeds by establishing the principle of equality and social justice between all the citizens and by dividing the country's wealth among all its citizens in a fair manner that guarantees every citizen an honorable life free of all forms of poverty, material need, and the harsh living conditions under which the citizen suffered during the imamate era. This has had a great impact on bolstering and entrenching the bases of the human solidarity currently existing between leadership and the people--a solidarity reflected by the Yemeni people's masses in every village and town when popular processions moved to the capital to ask the People's Constituent Assembly to reelect brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the office of president of the republic and armed forces general commander and to appeal at the same time to the brother president and commander to continue leading our people's procession so that the people may be able to achieve the progress, welfare, prosperity, and high standing they aspire for.

8494/9190

BRIEFS

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA—Sanaa-SABA'—An educational cooperation program between our country and the People's Republic of Bulgaria was signed yesterday. The program calls on the Bulgarian government to provide a number of scholarships and to secure a number of seats in scientific specializations in Bulgarian universities. The program was signed on our country's behalf by brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Shami, the assistant undersecretary of education, and on behalf of the Bulgarian side by Professor Dimitr Bochkov, the first deputy minister of education and chairman of the Higher Studies Council, who is currently on a visit to our country. The signing ceremony was attended by a number of brother officials of the Ministry of Education, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Sanaa. [Text] [44040442c Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Jul 87 p 2] 8494/9190

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN—Sanaa—SABA'—A delegation from the Ministry of Public Works, headed by brother 'Abd-al-Bari Salih, the general director of rural water projects, yesterday left for Tokyo for a several-day visit to Japan. Brother 'Abd-al-Bari Salih told SABA' NEWS AGENCY that an agreement on the fourth grant offered by the Japanese government for rural water projects will be signed during the visit. Salih noted that the grant amounts to \$9.5 million. [Text] [44040442a Ta'izz AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Jul 87 p 2] 8494/9190

AGREEMENTS WITH FRG, FAO—Sanaa-SABA'—Yesterday morning, our country and the FRG signed at the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources an agreement on financing a drinking water project in the area of al-Wasitah Adhra' and al-Zahir of al-Khabt Subdistrict in al-Mahwit Governorate. In accordance with the agreement, the FRG will contribute DM3 million to the costs of the project, in addition to the contributions of the ministry and of the local cooperative development councils. The project will supply the drinking water needs of 12,500 citizens in the area through the construction of 2 central water tanks to supply the area with potable water. The agreement was signed on the Yemeni side by Dr Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Umari, the minister of agriculture and fish resources and a Permanent Committee member, and on the German side by Heinrich Reiners, the FRG ambassador in Sanaa. An agreement was signed afterwards between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources and the U.N. FAO. In accordance with this agreement, the FAO will implement the second phase of the afforestation and tree project. The

Swiss government has contributed \$1,807,932 to the costs of this project and our country is to contribute 14,784,000 riyals. The project seeks to strengthen the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources, to develop this department's capabilities, to train local elements, to develop the ministry's Guidance Agency and to train those who exploit forests on the best utilization of forest resources, and to develop their skills to renew the plant cover and to plant the right kind of trees in the area of the project which encompasses five various climatic and environmental zones of our country. The agreement was signed on our country's behalf by brother Dr Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Umari, the minister of agriculture and fish resources and a Permanent Committee member, and on behalf of FAO by Dr 'Umar Salih, the organization's representative in Sanaa. The signing ceremonies for both agreements were attended by brother Muqbil Ahmad Muqbil, the undersecretary of agriculture and fish resources, and by a number of specialized brother officials of the ministry. [Text] [44040442b Sanaa AL-TTAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 87 p 2] 8494/9190

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES CHAKMA ISSUE WITH REPORTERS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam on Wednesday ruled out the possibility of a "Sri Lanka type" solution of the Chakma refugee issue between Bangladesh and India.

Talking to newsmen at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Secretary ridiculed certain Indian Press reports suggesting "Sri Lanka type" solution of the Chakma refugee issue and asserted that the issue was essentially a domestic one of Bangladesh and "there was no scope for involvement of any other party". He informed that Bangladesh reiterated its objections to such reports in Indian media.

The Foreign Secretary said that the Tamil ethnic issue in Sri Lanka and the Chakma refugee problem in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) were not identical. He added that the refugee problem in CHT was in minor nature as the Chakma tribals form not even one per cent of the entire population of Bangladesh.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated Bangladesh's stand for a "peaceful and tranquil border with India". He stressed on a political will to resolve the outstanding issues and remove the "irritants" between the two neighbours. He considered the Chakma refugee issue, handing over of Tin Bigha, South Talpatty, Farakka and Teesta river issues as major irritants between the two countries.

He disclosed that the Deputy Commissioners of Khagrachhari and Indian South Tripura would meet on August 27 at Sabrum town in India to discuss related matters on the return of Bangladesh Chakma tribals from the refugee camps in

India to their homes in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Some of the Chakma tribal leaders would accompany the district officials of Khagrachhari and a number of refugee leaders would join the Indian officials at the Sabrum meeting.

The Foreign Secretary also informed the Press that so far over 6000 Chakma refugee had returned from Indian side and many more were crossing every day from the border to their home. He put the total number of Chakma refugee at 29,920.

Asked whether he expects an early solution of the Chakma refugee issue, the foreign Secretary replied "I hope the present stagnation on the issue will not persist". The Governments of both the countries were in constant and regular contacts to resolve the issue and "we expect certain developments in and around us soon", the Foreign Secretary added without further elaboration.

The Foreign Secretary informed that the meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission due on July 26 was postponed with mutual understanding and the fresh date for the meeting would be worked out.

He also informed that the SAARC sponsored regional convention on terrorism would be held in Colombo from August 17 to August 20. A three-member delegation with representatives from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Home and Law and Parliamentary Affairs will attend the convention from Bangladesh.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1920

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON 'HOSTILE' INDIAN PROPAGANDA

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh yesterday expressed its dismay and regrets at a recently launched anti-Bangladesh campaign in the Indian media including the government controlled Door-darshan television.

When asked to comment on a recently telecast programme of the 'Doordarshan' on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chakma refugees, a Foreign Office spokesman termed the contents of the TV report as being 'biased, partial and not reflective of the actual situation.'

He told BSS that it was unfortunate to see the Indian government 'portraying a highly imaginary scenario and levelling unfounded charges against the Bangladesh government'.

The spokesman said a strong protest had already been lodged with the Indian government in New Delhi by High Commissioner Faruk Ahmed Choudhury against such officially sponsored media campaigns.

This officially inspired campaign runs counter to the spirit of the assurances of friendly cooperation and goodwill conveyed so recently to Dhaka by the highest political leadership of India, the spokesman said.

He regretted that New Delhi found it expedient to allow its television network to project anti-Bangladesh programmes, thus encouraging whipping up of a campaign in the Indian national media on the Chakma refugees.

The spokesman said the door-darshan' programme, unfortunately came at a time when Dhaka had shown utmost restraint despite incontrovertible evidence of the government of India sheltering, training and arming terrorists in various camps in India'.

These terrorists of the so-called Shanti Bahini are actively involved in perpetrating atrocities on the innocent and peace loving inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region from safe sanctuaries across the border.

"Thanks to modern technology", he said, "it has been possible to locate all the various places where shelter is being provided to these terrorists and to monitor all activities relating to their training."

The spokesman said the terrorists of the so-called Shanti Bahini had been indulging in acts of 'premeditated terrorism' resulting not only in loss of innocent lives including those of women and children, but also of destruction of property.

He said their destructive activities were unfortunate when Bangladesh, as a least developed country of the Third World, was trying to use all available resources to enable its people to have an acceptable quality of life.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury also strongly protested against certain malicious charges made in the Indian newspapers recently that forcible conversion of Buddhists to Islam had been taking place in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

• "Such charges are the figment of imagination... Forcible conversion to Islam is not only contrary to the traditions in Bangladesh but is also against the tenets of Islam," the Foreign Minister said.

When his attention was drawn to Indian press reports suggesting 'a Sri Lankan type' solution for the Chakma refugees, Mr. Choudhury commented: "No country should attempt to assume any role whatsoever between a section of the people of Bangladesh and the government of Bangladesh".

/13046

CSO: 4600/1919

ELECTION PANEL DISMISSES CHALLENGE TO HOUSE MEMBERSHIP

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Election Commission has dismissed a petition challenging the membership of 29 Jatiya Sangsad members, who joined two political parties after being elected as independent candidates in the last general elections, reports BSS.

The Election Commission consisting of Chief Election Commissioner Mr Justice Chowdhury A.T.M. Masud and the Election Commissioner Mr Justice Sultan Hosain Khan gave the judgement after hearing over the petition filed by Mr Najmul Huda.

The petitioner, Mr Huda contended in his petition under Article 66 (4) of the Constitution that the 29 respondents, who were elected as independent candidates in the last parliamentary polls have joined political parties, against which electorate of their constituencies voted and thus they have acted unconstitutionally and their seats as member of Parliament are liable to be declared vacant under Article

70 of the Constitution.

The Attorney General, Mr Mohammad Nurullah, in reply argued that mischief of Article 70 of the Bangladesh Constitution is not attracted in the case of independent candidates as this provision only prohibits crossing of floor by members of Parliament elected as a nominee of any political party.

After hearing the counsels the Election Commission held that an independent member of Parliament who was not nominated by any political party in his election, is free to join any party and vote in any manner he likes.

The Commission further said that since there is no specific provision in the Constitution or in any statute prohibiting an independent member from joining any political party, he would not be liable to vacate his seat in the Parliament on his joining any political party after his election as an independent candidate.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1918

REPORT ON DROP IN TEA EXPORTS, SHIPPERS' REFUTATION

Tea Traders' Chairman

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Nizam Ahmed]

[Text]

CHITTAGONG, July 27:

The export of tea has recorded a fall over the last six years.

The volume of tea export in 1986-87 (Till May) stood at 21,346.380 metric tons as against 29,864 tons in 1985-86.

In the previous four years, tea export totalled 30,306 tons in 1984-85, 23,100 tons in 1983-84, 29,989 tons in 1982-83 and 34,415 tons in 1981-82.

Shipping problem, price fall in international market, cumbersome export procedures and poor quality of tea are the main reasons for the export reversal, Tea Exporters here said.

Shipping problem caused by Flag Protection Rule retards export as fifty percent of tea export is to be shipped by the national flag carrier B S C the small fleet of which is unable to carry required volume in a given time and route. Small fleet added with absence of regular service causes delay in shipment. This delay discourages foreign buyers to import tea from Bangladesh. To expedite tea export, the Flag Protection Rule should be withdrawn said Mr Iqbal Dada, Chairman of Tea Traders association of Bangladesh (TTAB).

The TTAB Chairman said Pakistani buyers prefer Kenyan tea as it is of improved quality and it involves minimum time in shipment. It requires only seven days to reach Karachi from Kenyan Port of Mombasa. Pakistan also has a flag protection rule but its shipping corporation has a larger fleet and it can satisfy shippers by arranging ships in need.

Drop in price in international market also hampered tea export from Bangladesh said a marketing official of the national Brokers here. He said a kilogram of Bangladesh tea fetched between 110 pence to 120 pence in London auction in 1986 but this year the price dropped to 50 to 60 pence per kg. The sharp price fall put Bangladesh at a disadvantage at the London auction market greatly affecting tea export. The price at Chittagong auction market is between Tk thirty five to Tk forty five per kg which is below the production cost. If the trend continues, tea growers will surely face losses, concerned circles say.

Letters of credit opening complications delay L/C implementation and exports, said an official of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad. In case of export to Pakistan L/Cs can be operated through National Bank of Pakistan and Rupali Bank of Bangladesh as authorised under the special trade agreement signed by the two countries.

Mr Azad, Secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad, said L/C restriction should be withdrawn to simplify export procedures.

Cessation of buying by Egypt and Poland was another cause of export reversal. Egypt stopped purchasing tea since November last year on financial ground. Like Egypt, Poland also used to buy tea under barter system but stopped buying since January last in retaliation,

for Bangladesh's steps concerning radiated milk powder imported from Poland.

An expert of Bangladesh Tea Board said that Poland recently launched a propaganda against Bangladesh tea saying that it was highly radiated. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission said that radiation level in our tea was 25BQ while the accepted level was 50 BQ.

TTAB officials said, the recently signed agreement between Pakistan and Bangladesh regarding procurement of 20 million kg of tea from the latter was not yet effected.

Pakistani parties are, however, continuing purchase at Chittagong auction market. Pakistan requires 80 million kg of tea annually and Bangladesh has export surplus of 30 million kg. But Pakistan now prefers Kenyan,

Sri Lankan and even Indian tea for their improved quality, taste and flavour.

Regarding quality, experts said that geographical and climatic condition were the factors behind poor quality. Technology also mattered to some extent, they added. Tea garden areas of Bangladesh are within one to two thousand feet above the sea level while an ideal ground for quality tea should be over two thousand feet above the sea level, they said.

Exporters said, that the EPB, BTB, TTAB and BCS should explore new export markets for tea and arrange fund for promotional activities. Besides, the Government should introduce cash incentive, waive flag protection rules and withdraw excise duty on loose tea in order to raise export, they added.

Note From Shippers

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Aug 87 p 3

[Text]

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation has sent a clarification on the news item, "Tea export has fallen over 6 years", published in our July 29 issue. The following is the text of the clarification note:

It is not correct that 50% of tea export is reserved for BSC vessels. In regards to shipment to Pakistan, the Bilateral Shipping Agreement between the two countries provides that the national flag carriers of both the countries which includes privately and publicly owned vessels would carry all sea-borne trade on 50-50 basis. Despite above and the fact Bangladeshi and Pakistani flag vessels are regularly operating on this route, General Waiver facility has been extended to tea shipment in Container to Pakistan for the last 18 months. This shows that there has been no restriction on the shipment of tea to Pakistan since February, 1986 and the shippers are free to choose any carrier for shipment of tea in Container to Pakistan.

The General Waiver facility has been granted in respect of tea shipment to Pakistan facilitate export of tea keeping national interest in view. Besides, the prescribed authority allows waiver for shipment of Bangladeshi export by any foreign flag vessel when no Bangladeshi flag vessel is available within 7 days from notified date shipment. Therefore, the allegation made that Flag Protection Rules retarded export of tea is misleading and not based on facts. The reasons for short fall in export of tea are low quality, price fall in international market and other factors including geographical and climatic conditions of Bangladesh as have been clearly stated in newsitem and not due to shipping problems. The Suggestion for waiver of Flag Protection Rules as a measure of improving tea export appears to be motivated and designed to deprive the national flag carriers of their rightful share in the country's export.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1919

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO UK--The new Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Major General (retd) K M Shafiullah presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth on Wednesday, reports BSS. The High Commissioner conveyed to the Queen the greetings of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad. The queen received the High Commissioner, his wife and senior official of the high commission and conveyed her best wishes to President Ershad, the people and the government of Bangladesh. The Queen expressed the hope that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be strengthened further in future. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Aug 87 p 3] /13046

EXPORT LOSS COMPENSATION--The European Economic Community has extended 6.3 million dollars to Bangladesh as the guarantee of the community to compensate the losses in the export earnings of the country, reports BSS. This is the first time that the guarantee of the European Community to compensate the export earnings of Bangladesh had been called to work, Mr C Cheysson, European Commissioner, told Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in a message. 'We feel that such an assurance against the unpredictable losses due to unexpected conditions has a great significance and we are proud that the community is the only institution in the world to provide such a guarantee the message said. Mr. Cheysson said that it was a new demonstration of determination of the community to improve constantly its cooperation with Bangladesh. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Aug 87 p 1] /13046

AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL--Government have decided to appoint AKM Jalaluddin, at present Minister, Embassy of Bangladesh, Paris, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Nepal, reports BSS. Born in Faridpur, 1942, Jalaluddin was educated at the Dhaka University from which he received BA (Hons) in Economics and MA in International Relations in 1964. Before joining government service in 1966, Jalaluddin was Lecturer in the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University for a brief period. He held various positions in Bangladesh government including Deputy Commissioner, Mymensingh and Deputy Secretary, President's Secretariat till 1980 when Jalaluddin joined BCS (Foreign Affairs). Between 1980 and 1984 he was a Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Principal of the Foreign Affairs Training Academy. He has been the Minister Bangladesh embassy in Paris since 1984. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Jul 87 p 3] /13046

AID FROM ITALY--Bangladesh and Italy in Dhaka on Tuesday signed an agreement settling all the outstanding debt liabilities between the two countries for the pre-liberation days and for the period till July 1, 1974, reports BSS. Under the agreement Italy will convert Taka 16.8 crore as grant out of the total Taka 18.28 crore given to Bangladesh in the form of economic assistance for 18 projects during the periods under consideration. The rest Taka 2.20 crore will be paid back by Bangladesh to Italy. The agreement was signed by the Secretary of the External Resources Division, Mr. M.K. Anwar and the Italian Ambassador, Mr. Sandro Maria Siggia, on behalf of their respective countries. After the signing ceremony, the Italian Ambassador said the conclusion of the agreement would help pave the way for undertaking further economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Siggia said Italy is looking forward to widen the framework of economic cooperation between his country and Bangladesh in the fields as agreed by the two countries. Italy extended some emergency food aid to Bangladesh in 1974. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Aug 87 p 8] /13046

ARMS TRANSIT DENIAL--Bangladesh President H.M. Ershad has assured Chinese leader Zhao Ziyang that Bangladesh will not allow India to move military supplies across its territory to the northwest sector in the event of Sino-Indian hostilities. The assurance was given during their meeting in Peking on July 3, despite Dhaka's worry that India might insist on invoking the transit provisions of Indo-Bangladesh friendship Treaty signed in 1972. Chinese Vice-Premier Qiao Shi had raised India's use of the treaty during his visit to Bangladesh. China is Bangladesh's main arms supplier and a new package is being discussed.--(Courtesy: Far Eastern Economic Review, July 23 issue). [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jul 87 p 1] /13046

PORTFOLIOS REALLOCATED--The President on Sunday reallocated portfolios of four Minister, it was officially announced in Dhaka, reports BSS. The announcement said Major General M. Shamsul Huq who was in charge of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation was allocated the portfolio of Social Welfare and Women Affairs Ministry. Al-haj Maulana M.A. Mannan, was allocated the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in addition to the Ministry of Religious Affairs. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sheikh Shahidul Islam was appointed State Minister in the Ministry of Works while State Minister for Labour and Manpower Mostafa Jamal Haider was appointed State Minister in the Ministry of Sports and Youth. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Aug 87 p 1] /13046

CSO: 4600/1926

TWO AMERICAN HOSTAGES REPORTEDLY TRIED

46400144 London KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 87 p 1

[London KEYHAN WEEKLY in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] At least two American hostages kidnapped during their stay in Lebanon have been transported to the Islamic Republic and tried as spies.

According to a report in the London GUARDIAN, a reliable Shi'ite news source in Lebanon revealed the transfer and trial of two American hostages in Tehran. The news source told THE GUARDIAN reporter: "Recently, the Islamic Republic requested that two Hizballah members travel to Tehran to testify against the two American hostages." The newspaper adds: "For some time now, two Lebanese Hizballah members have not been seen in public. Informed officials believe that the disappearance of the two caused anxiety in the Hizballah leadership that Syrian soldiers had taken this action to restrain the activities of the Hizballah."

Julie Filnet, THE GUARDIAN reporter, writes: "The names of the two Americans taken to Tehran apparently for trial have not been revealed." The reporter adds: "Since only Tom Southerland and Terry Anderson were kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad group, it is believed that they must be the two Americans who were transferred to Tehran."

THE GUARDIAN report says: "During the past few weeks, rumors regarding the transfer of American hostages to Tehran have grown much stronger. The Beirut weekly ASH-SHIRA' has said: "One political faction in the Islamic Republic favors putting the American hostages on trial." This same weekly a little while ago came out with the news that a special committee under the guidance of Ayatollah Khomeyni had been set up to oversee hostage matters.

Mark Teran, reporter for THE GUARDIAN in Washington, with regard to the news of the transfer of two American hostages to Tehran and their trial there, writes: "State Department officials have commented very cautiously on reports about the transfer of two American hostages to Tehran." One State Department spokesman told reporters: "If this report should prove true, then it is very disturbing."

THE GUARDIAN, at the end of its article, adds: "American officials expressed surprise that the Islamic Republic would spark a propaganda row by putting American hostages on trial. The issue surrounding the torture of William Buckley, the head of CIA operations in the Middle East, and the rumor about his having been transferred to Tehran, which was reported some time ago in the international press, was not carried widely in the American press."

13041/9716

CONFRONTATION WITH KURDS INTENSIFIED

46400144 London KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 87 pp 1, 4

[London KEYHAN WEEKLY in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] In the middle of last week the Islamic Republic announced that Iranian forces had achieved brilliant victories in widespread fighting in the Kurdish region of Iraq. In addition to occupying portions of this region, 1,500 Iraqis were reported killed and wounded.

The Islamic Republic official news agency (IRNA) reported that from the outset of operations in this area to the wave of new attacks mounted by the Islamic Republic forces against the Iraqi soldiers' positions, the number of Iraqis killed and wounded has reached 3,500. The news agency claimed that during the course of these attacks Islamic Republic forces occupied a number of Iraqi villages in the region, covering a 40-kilometer-square area. The area under occupation is located 260 kilometers north of Baghdad.

According to the London INDEPENDENT, Islamic Republic news sources announced that Iranian forces have occupied the town of Mawat, located 40 kilometers from the center of Sulaymaniyah Province.

Officials in Baghdad, while confirming the news about fighting between Iraqi forces and the Pasdaran in the Sulaymaniyah area, announced that the Islamic Republic's claims to having defeated Iraqi forces was exaggerated.

Officials of the Islamic Republic also announced that the Revolutionary Guards had downed two enemy aircraft during military operations in Iraq's Kurdish region.

IRNA, in announcing the news of the advance of the Revolutionary Guards forces in Iraq's Kurdish region, added: "The purpose of mounting these military operations was both to defeat Iraq's war machine and to deliver a response to that country's mischief in the Persian Gulf region."

The INDEPENDENT says: "In carrying out its attacks against the Kurdish region of Iraq, the Islamic Republic made use of heavy weapons, especially long-range artillery and military helicopters." The newspaper adds: "Kurdish guerrillas opposed to the Iraqi regime cooperated with Islamic Republic forces during these operations."

With regard to the military operations in the Iraqi Kurdish areas in the northeastern part of Iraq and also the military operations in the Kurdish areas of Iran, HERALD TRIBUNE reporter Kent Timmerman writes: "At the same time that fighting is going on between Iraqi forces and Islamic Republic forces at various points on the long battlefield between the two countries, in the high mountainous area of western Iran another battle is going on at whose frontline Pesh Mergas who are members of the Kurdish Democratic Party are engaged in fighting against 100,000 Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards). The number of Pesh Mergas is somewhere between 10,000 and 12,000 men. Leadership of the Pesh Mergas is in the hands of Abdur Rahman Qasemlou. The Kurdish Pesh Mergas of Iran, after being ousted from their villages by Islamic Republic forces, turned to continued guerrilla warfare in the heavily mountainous area in order to achieve their political objectives. The Islamic Republic forces have control of the roads and towns during daylight hours, but once night falls, the wartorn areas of Iranian Kordestan revert back to the Kurdish Pesh Mergas."

The HERALD TRIBUNE reporter says in his article: "While the bloody battles to take power in Iran's Kordestan have remained hidden from the eyes of Western media, nevertheless, the results of these battles will without doubt make an impression on the political leadership of the Islamic Republic in the years ahead."

Kent Timmerman writes: "If the supporters of Ayatollah Khomeyni are forced to relinquish power before his death, it will not be because of an attack by U.S. forces on the Islamic Republic's missile pads around the Strait of Hormuz and not because of Iraq: the possible fall of the Islamic Republic can only come as the direct result of a successful Kurdish revolt in Iran's Kordestan."

With regard to Kurdish Democratic Party leader Abdur Rahman Qasemlou's direction, Timmerman quotes him as saying: "Our movement has a leftist tendency but is not communist. In our political programs we demand democracy for Iran and self-determination for Kordestan. We are Iranians, and we wish to remain Iranians within Iran. Our basic objective at the present time is to bring down the edifice of Ayatollah Khomeyni's rule."

13041/9716

MONTHLY MILITARY WEAPONS PURCHASES AVERAGE \$250 MILLION

46400147 London KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 87 p 4

[London KEYHAN WEEKLY in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The Islamic Republic is spending an average of approximately \$250 million per month for the purchase of weapons and ammunition from countries around the world. This amounts to approximately \$3 billion per year. Since the Islamic Republic's average income from the sale of oil is \$10-\$12 billion per year, about one-fourth of this income is spent on the purchase of weapons and war equipment! This is contained in a report written by Robert Fisk, a reporter for the London TIMES.

The report adds: "Although a majority of industrial countries officially have banned the sale of weapons and ammunition to the Islamic Republic, nevertheless, a majority of these countries using various means are sending their lethal weapons to the Islamic republic in exchange for money.

Arms merchants in West Germany and Austria believe that many countries are assisting the Islamic Republic in making purchases of war materiel and equipment.

These countries include: the USSR, China, the UK, Italy, Spain, Greece, North and South Korea, Taiwan, Pakistan, Dubai, Syria, Libya, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, the Netherlands, Israel, Portugal, India, and Saudi Arabia, with Belgium being the latest country to join this list. During the past year Belgium despatched four large ships laden with weapons and ammunition from the port of Antwerp to Bandar Abbas. Islamic republic officials maintain a detailed listing of the types of weapons that other countries are selling to Iraq. Some weapons that have been sold to Iraq fall within the framework of agreements such as that between Moscow and Baghdad which were reached some time ago. Other weapons sold to Iraq and the Islamic Republic are not offensive in nature--on the contrary, in explaining their transactions, the sellers and the buyers refer to such weapons as defensive in nature!

Last year the well-known British communications firm Plessey agreed to make available to the Islamic Republic advanced radar equipment and instruments along with other communications items. Recently, the UK revealed that the

Islamic Republic will only use this sensitive communications and radar equipment on the Iran-Afghan border. The value of this agreement between the British firm Plessey and the Islamic Republic for the radar purchase comes to \$240 million. Following the revelation of the secret clause in this agreement, THE TIMES asked the British Defense Ministry to explain why the radar was made available to Iran. The response from officials in London was: "These radars will be deployed by Iran along the Iran-Afghan border and our (British) diplomats can inspect the area where this equipment is being installed!" THE TIMES says: "This response was given by the British Ministry of Defense to the newspaper at a time when the total number of British diplomats in Tehran was at least 20 persons."

The newspaper report adds: "Now that the number of British diplomats in Iran is down to only one person, it is no longer feasible to check on how these radars are being used."

Purchase of Spare Parts for Soviet-Made Tanks

TIMES reporter Robert Fisk writes: "Documentation at the disposal of THE TIMES indicates that spare parts needed by the Islamic Republic for Soviet-made tanks and other types of destructive weapons are made known to Austrian arms merchants, who are requested to find them in the international arms market and send them to the Islamic Republic."

Robert Fisk goes on to say: "THE TIMES has hundreds of examples of such documents and papers regarding requests by the Islamic Republic for weapons and ammunition. Some of these requests are contained in official letters on paper carrying the Islamic Republic's Defense Ministry letterhead. Others, in order to keep the identity of the requester or that of the seller secret, are prepared on plain white paper without a printed letterhead."

THE TIMES reporter adds: "These days, weapons can be gotten by paying money, delivering oil, or even by exchanging hostages!"

Prior to the revelation about the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, Syria, in exchange for oil either free of charge or at a reduced price, delivered large quantities of weapons to Iran. Neutral Austria, for example, over the last few years has attracted the attention of international arms merchants. The Austrian press revealed some time ago that Austria had exported large quantities of weapons and ammunition to the Islamic Republic via Libya. Peter Piltež, an Austrian economist, claims that the Austrian firm Hertenberger has sold large numbers of 155-mm long-range artillery pieces to the Islamic Republic and to Iraq.

Over the past few years, the Austrian weapons firm Fust Alpine, by reaching large oil-for-weapons barter agreements, has sent large quantities of military equipment to the Islamic Republic. The Austrian economist told THE TIMES reporter: "Since both the Islamic Republic and Iraq are Austria's arms customers, weapons manufacturing firms and arms export firms have always had to guard against face-to-face encounters between arms purchasing representatives from the Islamic republic and those from Iraq who might show up in the offices of the firms at the same time."

THE TIMES article continues: "West Germany has sold to the Islamic Republic temporary bridge construction equipment for military use. In addition, West Germany recently delivered both to the Islamic Republic and to Iraq large quantities of technical equipment that can be used for weapons production."

Retired Israeli Colonel Ziv Eitan, a noted weapons expert, told THE TIMES reporter: "In 1984, the British Government approved the sale of two British-made military aircraft to the Islamic Republic."

Robert Fisk says further on in his report: "Most of the weapons-producing countries try to protect their image by indicating that they are not sending arms that they produce to countries that are at war. In annual listings of exports of British-produced weapons, British officials do not identify the countries making the arms purchases. The British Ministry of Trade and Industry does not disclose the names of firms authorized to export weapons."

The reporter adds: "Some international arms merchants are unable to understand the mentality of Middle East countries. For example, Saudi Arabia gives Egypt funds to deliver weapons to Iraq. At the same time, Egyptian small arms make their way to Iran from Saudi Arabia via the free port of Dubai. Perhaps Saudi Arabia has made some confidential agreements with the Islamic republic. Apparently, Saddam Husayn a while back became very angry over this Saudi Arabian activity and ordered his (Iraqi) jets to bomb a UAE oil well 'by mistake'."

Israel's Role in the Sale of Weapons to the Islamic Republic

Robert Fisk, continuing his detailed report about the role of arms-producing countries in strengthening and spreading the network for the sale of their products, writes: "Among the arms-producing countries, Israel has allocated to itself a special place. Israeli experts have learned that by making some changes in the technical component of a weapon and by altering the form and shape of a weapon, such weapons can be sold to other countries."

The reporter, as an example of how the Israelis operate in this field, adds: "Recently, Israel sent a group of Israeli experts and technicians to China to assist Chinese experts in the repair and reconstruction of Soviet T-62 and T-55 tanks and 155-mm artillery pieces. Israeli technicians and engineers, in repairing and reconstructing Soviet tanks and heavy artillery held by the Chinese, make use of advanced technical equipment produced in Israel. Such equipment and technical instruments are sent by ship from the port of Eilat (located on the shores of the Red Sea) to China's ports."

Robert Fisk adds: "China is one of the principal suppliers of weapons needed by the Islamic Republic. It sends by sea to the port of Bandar Abbas heavy artillery and tanks reconstructed by Israeli engineers for delivery to the military forces of the Islamic Republic."

13041/9716

ADMINISTRATION BLAMED FOR IGNORING INTERNAL PROBLEMS

46560102b Karachi AMN in Urdu 31 Jul 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Administration's Record Has Become Worse"]

[Text] The imperialist powers have made the area of the Kurram Agency in Pakistan a center of armed conflict. The administration, however, is evasive in dealing with the situation that has arisen there. Although armed Afghan refugees at U.S. provocation are actively and freely engaged in the massacre of the local population and are charging that their opponents are agents of the KGB (the Soviet intelligence), in fact they themselves are acting as CIA agents. These armed Afghan refugees have also attacked the Kurram Agency's headquarters at Siddah. They looted the Siddah shopping center and set it on fire, after which the curfew limit was extended in Siddah. The majority of those killed or injured as a result of such activities of the Afghan refugees are women and children. And the number is increasing day by day.

To cover up the Kurram Agency incidents, the administration and its employees started inventing hypothetical stories about the causes of those events. The reality, however, did manifest itself. At first, it was said that those riots occurred because of old enmity. Then the excuse was made that the abduction of some girls led to this massacre. It was also said that the fight was between the Turi and the Mangal tribes. Now it is being said that the conflict and bloodshed was due to a quarrel that arose concerning the sale of a tractor.

Whatever the immediate cause, the fact proven without fear of refutation is that one party responsible for the bloodshed of Pakistanis is the Afghan fugitives who, instead of fighting their war in Afghanistan, are desirous of doing so on Pakistani soil. A leader of the Afghan Mujaheddin, Gulbudin Hekmatyar, says that the purpose of their holy war is to establish an independent Islamic state in Afghanistan. One cannot quarrel with his objective; a vast majority of people can be found in Pakistan who sympathize with this objective. However, this holy war should be fought in Afghanistan and not in Pakistan. By fighting their war in Pakistan, the Afghan refugees are harming the interests of their hosts. They have overlooked what their role should have been as guests.

Everyone is aware of the activities of the Afghan refugees. The notoriety they have earned for spreading munitions and carrying on trade in heroin in

Pakistan is no longer a secret. Pakistan has left no stone unturned in offering its hospitality. But the refugees have done nothing except to trample the guest etiquette. Still, that would not have been so bad if the matter had rested there and an effort had been made for reformation. But the impact that these incidents have had on the previously described circumstances in Pakistan is no less distressing. The rulers have no time at all to pay attention to the internal affairs of the country. Based on the repeated changes in ministerial portfolios in the federal cabinet, it appears that the administration is engaged in political experiments. It has no fixed policy, nor does it know as to how to react in such a situation.

The most important issue is the arrival of the terrorists in Pakistan and the delivery of destructive weapons to the country. Five terrorists were arrested in Peshawar. The 30-kilo bombs that explode with Hitachi fleets were seized from their trucks. Both bombs are far more powerful than the bombs that exploded in Karachi; each is capable of destroying an 11-story building and simultaneously killing or wounding thousands of individuals. It is interesting that this truck has stopped at the Turkhum frontier, but the frontier guards found nothing objectionable in it.

The termination of bribery is a vital issue in Prime Minister Junejo's five-point program. The administration's dealing in this regard is such that a traffic sergeant at Thano Bola Khan demanded much more than the usual Eid allowance from some truck drivers using the superhighway. Their refusal led to a clash with the police. As a result, the police charged them with clubs and began tear-gas shelling and firing at them. The superhighway was blocked with trucks, and it remained closed for 12 hours. A police vehicle was also set on fire. Thus, to obtain unlawful earnings, the bribetakers created a huge turmoil that ended when high officials arrived at the scene and suspended the traffic sergeant and the police party.

A legal investigation of the bomb explosions and riots in Karachi is being demanded on all sides, but the administration continues to ignore this. The people find themselves in a totally unsafe position. In Karachi, in order to protect themselves from armed dacoits, bandits and robbers, as well as the political disorder, iron doors are being installed on paths leading to various neighborhoods. Before long, closed-wall or closed-fort neighborhoods will become a common scene in Karachi. Substandard security, too, plays a major role in creating the present situation.

Previously, it was said that the local elections would be held at the appointed time, but now, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo says that there could be a delay of 1 or 2 months in these elections. But the administration would benefit far more if the local elections were postponed forever.

9779/9274

RULERS URGED TO HEED WARNINGS ABOUT NATION'S INTEGRITY

46560102a Karachi AMN in Urdu 29 Jul 87 p 3

[Editorial; "Opportunity To Pay Heed to Warnings Will Not Arise Again!"]

[Text] The leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Miss Benazir Bhutto, has warned the Pakistani rulers that the time is very short to make a last effort to safeguard the Pakistan federation from destruction, since the seams of the federation have begun to come undone. She said that in order to prolong the rule to the maximum, the administration has nurtured the roots of bribery, greed and corruption in the society. The administration is operating against the interests of the people. The rulers are gaining strength through the environment of terrorism in the country. Every person is fearful and perturbed. The picture of the future one has in his mind is unacceptable. The country's administration is being conducted through the worst persons of the society. Such circumstances, instead of moving the administration to improve its performance, have rendered it incapable and weak. Pakistan has been turned into a "front-line state." She further said that the people in the smaller provinces, particularly in Sind, feel that they have been transformed into a colony.

Although this is not the first admonishment to the administration, since patriotic leaders have issued such warnings before, nevertheless, the circumstances have reached the stage that there is no time left for further exhortation. There is just enough time left now to make a final positive effort to safeguard the federation. The rulers, therefore, should stop accumulating power through terrorism, corruption and bribery and should strive to safeguard the federation by following the path of true democratic principles. Otherwise, the inevitable outcome of the present situation will be the destruction of the federation and the shattering of the dreams cherished by the Muslim dignitaries.

The country's situation has reached a point whereby individual incidents in remote areas should also be viewed through a national perspective. The nation has not yet recovered from the terrifying bomb explosions in Karachi and the riots against police brutality that a fearful tribal war based on Shia-Sunni differences has started in the northern regions. More than 200 persons have died and hundreds have been wounded in this war. The tribal juries, scouts and even the army have failed to stop this dangerous war. It is obvious that disturbances of this nature and level do not start by themselves. These riots, too, were instigated by agents sent by the rulers. The rulers think these tricks are a

means of prolonging their reign, but in fact, they are leading the country and the federation toward sure destruction.

As far as the effort to extinguish the fire is concerned, there exists a ray of hope in the assurance given by the chief minister of Sind, Sayed Ghaus Ali Shah, to the delegation of the Immigrants National Movement that in the future only local persons will be recruited for the Sind police. He also announced that innocent persons will be released and that the heirs of the dead will be compensated. He further said that compensation will be provided for the houses and shops damaged during the disturbances. Although these announcements and assurances will to some extent provide satisfaction to the people, nevertheless, as a matter of principle, supporting such a manner of action is incorrect. To provide compensation for every disturbance is a waste of national resources. Instead, measures should be taken whereby a recurrence of such disturbances is impossible, so that these resources can be utilized for the common national good.

The chief minister of Sind has gone out to console the people. No one could declare that this attitude is wrong. What is basically needed, however, is for the possibility of shedding tears not to exist at all. Sayed Ghaus Ali Shah should also ponder whether what is being said to him is appropriate and suitable, and whether it is worth accepting. Recently, under his chairmanship, a high-level conference was held in Karachi to consider the motives and consequences of the riots that took place after the bomb explosions in that city. Most of those participating were high-ranking officials of the administration and police, and the status of law and order was discussed. In this regard, it was suggested that the people's cooperation should be sought to maintain law and order, and that they should not be given an opportunity to complain. Also, it was proposed that the police force should be kept satisfied.

These are the most ridiculous suggestions ever made at an official conference. What should have been done was that the chief minister should have studied whether or not the official participating had performed their duties properly. To expect the people to cooperate with the police to maintain law and order after they have received extremely brutal and cruel treatment from the latter is a matter of utmost audacity. How should the police force be satisfied? Is it that they should be granted complete freedom to take bribes and inflict cruelties upon the people? We think this way because the direction of our ideology is wrong. The law is for everyone. No one is exempt from adherence to the law. So why should the police who violate the law or who unjustifiably inflict horrible cruelties upon the people remain exempt from legal accountability and liability? If the administration wants the people to cooperate in the establishment of peace, then it should punish the police in accordance with the law when they violate the law, treat people cruelly, exceed the limits of their authority and act unlawfully. Then the people will be sure of the administration's sincerity and they will enthusiastically cooperate with the government to establish peace.

9779/9274

U.S. ACTION ON AID TO PAKISTAN TERMED 'INSULT'

46560105b Karachi JANG in Urdu 10 Aug 87 p 3

[Column "Siyasi Baaten" 'Political Affairs' by Abdul Qadir Hasan]

[Text] No one knew that the United States was lying in wait for Pakistan to be free from British domination so that it could pounce upon it. It is almost 40 years now, and still the United States has not relaxed its hold on Pakistan. Now it has really come to look upon Pakistan as one of its colonies. Pakistan has been reduced to such a state of helplessness that the United States relinquishes its control and tightens it as will. Pakistan is like a caged bird, when we think of our treatment at the hands of the United States, we are reminded of verses from our poetry books about a cage, the hunter and the hunted.

We lived under British domination for centuries. But the British were civil; they used knives and forks. The United States, however, holds it prey with both hands and eats it with its bare teeth.

At the hands of the United States we have been reduced to such a state that it strikes whenever it pleases, even just for pleasure. Pakistan has become so debased that the United States invents a fictitious crime story and makes it Pakistan the villain, just as in our country the police place opium in someone's belongings and then arrest him. Pakistanis who have studied the United States, who have had the opportunity of travelling to that country and mingling with the people there, know that not only do the Americans have no respect for Pakistan and Pakistanis, but that they look upon them with contempt, first because Pakistanis are Muslims and second because they are against India and Israel. And compared to Pakistan, Israel and India are a thousand, even a hundred thousand, times more dear. It is beyond the comprehension of the superpower United States that Pakistan should become an atomic power and pose a real threat to Israel and India. Whether it is the United States or the Soviet Union, both of them as superpowers always suppress weaker nations and force them to obey. But certainly there are some countries who manage to benefit from the existing conflict between the two and contrive to escape from them. The fact that these superpowers have basic ideological differences is a boon to other countries; otherwise it would be impossible for a third country to live in peace.

Fortunately, because of the Afghanistan problem, Pakistan is in a position to benefit from both superpowers and also contrive to protect itself from their disruptionist activities. But the Pakistani leaders are not able to take full advantage of situation, and as usual remain in the U.S. clutches. Things have come to such a pass that the United States has now made Pakistan its vassal and according to Mr Tufail Mohammed, the United States has become our prison-keeper. By the time these lines are published, U.S. Ambassador Armacost will have left Pakistan. These lines are being written on his arrival in Pakistan. But his presence or absence does not really matter much. The contemptuous U.S. policy with respect to Pakistan has been maintained and will continue. This policy can only be changed by our resolve and courage, for the United States cannot be expected to reconsider its policy with respect to Pakistan. At present as a matter of principle it should side with Pakistan, because the latter's principled stand with regard to the Afghanistan problem is a blessing for the United States, and this constitutes very great political help. But it wants to keep Pakistan in its hold and is busy courting India. It supports India, which is tyrannizing Sri Lanka and treating an independent country with contempt and disdain. The policy of might makes right is in vogue everywhere. The same India that is killing Sikhs in Indian Punjab because they demand a semi-autonomous Khalistan has intervened militarily in Sri Lanka to help a group of people who are demanding independence. This is the Indian principle that was applied to East Pakistan, and if we provide the opportunity it will also be applied in Pakistan.

By extending its hand of friendship to the United States, Pakistan risked enmity with the Soviet Union. At least we did not expect animosity in return. We believed that the United States in its own interest would support Pakistan. Never before in the long history of Pakistani-U.S. relations has there been an opportunity for these two countries to come so close together.

The Afghanistan problem has for the first time apparently brought the two countries close together. Never before has there been an issue that brought the interests of these two countries together to such an extent. Pakistan did not get involved in the Afghanistan problem because of the United States but for the sake of its own Muslim brethren. The United States expressed interest in this issue after a long time, and gradually it became the joint issue of both countries. Pakistan wanted to defend itself from the Soviet Union, whereas the United States was concerned with disgracing the Soviets. Whenever a superpower takes an interest in an issue, then the status of that issue drops much lower. This is what happened with Pakistan. It looked upon itself as an equal of the United States. The United States got Pakistan involved in this case more than was necessary and later stopped worrying about it and became engaged in courting its enemies.

The United States has made a joke of Pakistan, and as a source of entertainment, Pakistan is being blamed for importing steel that could also be found in several other countries from which Pakistan could easily import it.

Pakistanis, however are not so stupid as to discard the easily accessible source and try to import it from a throughway country like the United States. Everything boils down to the simple fact that the United States has made up this

drama in order to prevent Pakistan from achieving further development in the field of atomic energy. The United States somehow prepared a case against Pakistan using a Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin as the central character, and in the same way a beggar is treated, Pakistan was told that it would get the alms but after 105 days. The Pakistani nation is not prepared to put up with such an insult. Drawing its strength from the people, the government should reconsider its relations with the United States. Friendship or hostility toward the United States should be based on honor. The nature of the present association is not acceptable. There is completely unanimity on one point, and that is that if we continue to look upon the United States as we have been doing for the past 40 years, then we shall never be able to stand on our own feet.

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RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES REPORTEDLY AT DELICATE POINT

46560105a Karachi JANG in Urdu 10 Aug 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistani-U.S. Relations at a Critical Juncture"]

[Text] The crisis through which Pakistani-U.S. relations have been passing for the last few weeks could be described as a decisive point. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq asked the U.S.-Government, keeping in mind the present situation, not to make a decision that would harm its friendship with Pakistan. The president, speaking with a representative of JANG in the State Guest House on Thursday evening, expressed the desire that the United States should not consider breaking relations with Pakistan and that Pakistani-U.S. friendship will succeed in overcoming all the challenges facing it.

The challenges to which President Zia referred are nothing new, because Pakistani-U.S. relations have confronted such crises in the past, and despite such critical periods in their relations they have always succeeded in overcoming them. Thus, the present status of Pakistani-U.S. relations should not cause undue despair and frustration. Nevertheless, the real cause of the recurring misunderstanding between Pakistan and the United States and the reason why it has not been successfully eliminated is certainly a matter of great concern.

Regarding President Ziaul Haq's statement that Pakistan will not allow its independence and freedom to be affected in any way, no one can differ with this statement. The 90 million zealous Pakistanis are the biggest guardians of their country's freedom and independence. They will not allow any country, however powerful, to impose its will on Pakistan. It is therefore out of the question to think that the United States will cut off aid just because it cannot have its way in regard to Pakistan. What deserves consideration is why obstacles are always placed in the way of aid given to Pakistan alone.

President Zia in his statement referred to the present situation in Pakistani-U.S. relations as a "self-created crisis," which indicates that the real cause of the problem lies elsewhere. This statement does not appear to be far from the truth. When, despite repeated assurances given by both the president and the prime minister that Pakistan's atomic program is purely for peace, it is criticized by the U.S. House of Representatives and when, on the basis of some fictitious or self-invented interview or someone's individual action

taken as Pakistan's official policy, suggestions are put forward for cutting aid to Pakistan, then it clearly means that there must be some force that is constantly engaged in mischievous propaganda against Pakistan and that not only places obstacles in the way of U.S. aid to Pakistan but also by ruining Pakistani-U.S. relations wants to harm Pakistan's national interests.

There is no question that Pakistan is a nonaligned country and that President Zia's statement that Pakistan wants to improve and maintain good friendly relations with the other superpower on the basis of mutual interest are true word for word. But this should not be taken to mean that such relations are possible only at the expense of relations with the United States or some other country. India, which despite its long-term treaties with one superpower not only insists on its nonalignment but is also engaged day and night with other big powers including the United States in achieving its interests, may be cited as a good example in this regard.

Such concrete and indisputable conditions and facts constitute a very important and decisive moment for both the United States and Pakistan. The United States should stop to consider why, under the influence of special lobbying, despite being a superpower it should continue to look upon friendly countries with suspicion and in this way risk its status and credibility on a global scale. Pakistan and its people, on the other hand, should consider why the lobbies working against them succeed every time, why it has not been possible to counter the utterly baseless propaganda of these lobbies in the international field. It is true that instead of relying entirely on one superpower, Pakistan should establish relations with both superpowers on the basis of increasing mutual cooperation. If we continue to fail to protect our national interests on a global scale and display our weakness and apathy, then the hostile lobby will reduce us to an unacceptable and accursed state with respect to both superpowers. It is the express desire and endeavor of our eternal adversaries to reduce Pakistan to a state of helplessness throughout the whole wide world. Pakistan should try to understand the tactics of its avowed enemies and as a nation of brave and dignified people not act hastily, emotionally or helplessly in making a decision which would strengthen the hands of our malicious enemies and harm our national interest still more.

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